



"It is Thy House, a Place of Thy Holiness"

Show Notes & Transcripts

Podcast General Description:

followHIM: A *Come, Follow Me* Podcast with Hank Smith & John Bytheway

Do you ever feel that preparing for your weekly *Come, Follow Me* lesson falls short? Join hosts Hank Smith and John Bytheway as they interview experts to make your study for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' *Come, Follow Me* course not only enjoyable but original and educational. If you are looking for resources to make your study fresh, faithful, and fun--no matter your age--then join us every Wednesday.

Podcast Episode Descriptions

Part 1: What can the Kirtland Temple dedication teach us about power, angelic help, and joy?

Dr. Anthony Sweat examines the historical and spiritual significance of Doctrine and Covenants 109-110, clarifies the difference between the endowment and its presentation, and shows how repentance and covenant keeping open the way to lasting spiritual strength.

Part 2:

Dr. Anthony Sweat continues his exploration of the Kirtland Temple, highlighting the dedicatory prayer and the visitations of Jesus Christ and ancient prophets who restored priesthood keys vital for missionary work, temple ordinances, and family history.

Timecodes:

Part 1 -

- 00:00 Part 1 - Dr. Anthony Sweat
- 01:45 Thoughts on the Kirtland Temple
- 04:13 Anthony Sweat bio
- 07:36 *Come, Follow Me Manual*
- 08:58 President Nelson's challenge
- 10:45 1836: A highlight
- 13:56 D&C 88:68: Thesis
- 17:19 Like a student stake
- 20:16 "Walking in darkness at noonday"
- 23:32 Temple is the point
- 25:55 Ordinances in Kirtland Temple?
- 28:36 Did they understand work for the dead yet?
- 30:36 Third floor rooms
- 34:20 Unanswered questions
- 37:28 Dedicatory prayer was given by revelation
- 39:46 Picturing the dedication
- 44:08 Introduction and plea
- 46:14 Fulfillment of promise
- 49:10 Sweat's "We Need an Endowment"
- 51:37 Learn, grow, and become
- 54:55 Seeing the Savior in the temple
- 57:44 Intended to bring you inside the temple
- 59:52 Repent, return, restored, and reverence
- 1:00:17 Armed with power and delegation
- 1:04:45 Angels and family on the other side of the veil
- 1:07:10 Eternal family BBQ and work from the other side
- 1:12:25 Seven blessings
- 1:14:27 Ordinances as doors to power
- 1:17:03 Difference between presenting concepts and receiving power
- 1:21:40 End of Part 1 - Dr. Anthony Sweat

Part 2 -

- 00:00 Part 2 - Dr. Anthony Sweat
- 00:19 Pray for our enemies
- 02:33 Blessings extend to the entire world
- 04:53 Gathering of Israel
- 07:01 Restoration of his people
- 09:39 Prophetic infallibility in testimony of Jesus

- 13:30 The name of the Church
- 15:08 Pentecostal outpouring
- 17:43 Beautiful answer to beautiful prayer
- 19:24 What was Joseph expecting?
- 23:33 The audacity
- 24:26 Hot tub discussions about our value add
- 28:23 The Mount of Transfiguration
- 31:03 The Lord accepts the house
- 34:41 Nature and character of Christ
- 36:04 The endowment is one of spiritual capacity
- 38:13 Gathering in of all things
- 42:10 Why are there three?
- 45:35 Keys, authorization, and assignments
- 51:16 Shall we not go forward?
- 54:01 The time has come
- 58:12 These are the days prophets have looked forward to
- 1:00:13 Dr. Sweat's testimony of the Lord's house
- 1:11:26 End of Part 2 - Dr. Anthony Sweat

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Biographical Information:



Anthony Sweat is a Professor of Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University. He received his bachelor's degree in painting and drawing and his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction. He is the author of several articles and books dealing with the teachings and history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His most recent book is *The Holy Covenants: Living our Sacred Temple Promises*. Anthony is a regular speaker at Latter-day Saint events and conferences. As a practicing artist his paintings center on religious themes, including underrepresented events in Church history. He and his wife, Cindy, are the parents of seven children.

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Hank Smith:	00:00:00	Coming up in this episode on followHIM.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:00:02	If there's anybody listening who feels that they're too far off the path or too far gone, or they can't come around, or that they can't make it to the house of the Lord, I testify you can. The power of the Lord's grace and His Atonement is beyond what you and I can comprehend to bring us back to Him and back to His house, to His presence.
Hank Smith:	00:00:33	Hello everyone. Welcome to another episode of followHIM. My name is Hank Smith. I am your host. I'm here with my co-host, John Bytheway, who is a co-host of prayer, a co-host of fasting, a co-host of faith, a co-host of learning, a co-host of glory, a co-host of order. John Bytheway, that's section 109 verse eight, I thought, man, John, John, John, John, it totally fits.
John Bytheway:	00:01:00	It's like one out of five ain't bad.
Hank Smith:	00:01:05	Yeah, you're batting 200. John we are joined today by our good friend, Dr. Anthony Sweat. Anthony, welcome back.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:01:14	Hey, my brothers, what a privilege to be back on the big show and to be with you guys, just my friends, who I love with my whole soul. I'm grateful to get to do this work with you and talk scripture with you today.
Hank Smith:	00:01:27	It's such a good day to have Anthony here. For those of you who haven't been with us since day one, I'm guessing that's quite a few of you. Anthony was our first guest on followHIM with I think two days notice.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:01:38	That's when I peaked in my life right there. I was the first guest on followHIM. It's just been downhill since there.
Hank Smith:	00:01:45	It was a good, good day. Now John, let's talk Section 109, 110. You've spent time at the Kirtland Temple. You do church history

tours. I've been there with you. Tell me what you think of when you think Kirtland Temple.

- John Bytheway: 00:01:58 I think of [Steve Harper](#). We watched a documentary about Kirtland. Anybody can watch it on BYUTV. It's called Kirtland America's Sacred Ground, and they're interviewing our friend Steve Harper. He says everything, and he pauses, everything that I hold dear comes from Kirtland and he's talking about the temple blessings and keys and everything that was restored there when I thought, yeah, everything I hold dear comes back to what started there. It's true.
- Hank Smith: 00:02:28 When you walk around those historic sites, it is quite personal, isn't it Anthony? I don't know anyone who has studied the history of the church and the temple like you have. When you think Kirtland Temple, what comes to mind? What are we gonna do today?
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:02:42 I look at 1820, the first vision culminated in my mind in 1830 with the publication of the Book of Mormon and the organization of the church. Everything from 1830 is gonna culminate right here in section 109 and 110 culminates in Kirtland with this prayer in 109 and these glorious visitations in 110. Really what we're gonna look at today is why we need an endowment and the restoration of priesthood keys that constitute the single greatest work that's happening on earth today. This is a pivot point in the history of the church and in the history of the world.
- Hank Smith: 00:03:23 John and I are excited to learn from you today. Anthony, before we go any further, I need a little help from our listeners. Our team has noticed that a lot of people who listen or watch our show don't actually [subscribe](#) to the show either on their podcast app or on YouTube. I'm going to make a request that everybody listening, pause really quick and make sure you're subscribing to the show because you're part of our team that's really gonna help us. I didn't know that it helps us so much. John, now you were born back in the 19 hundreds. Do you know how to subscribe to something?
- John Bytheway: 00:03:59 Yes, I do. I just ask one of my kids, Hey, subscribe, and I hand them the phone.
- Hank Smith: 00:04:03 Okay. Yeah, that's exactly how you would do it.
- John Bytheway: 00:04:07 If you're gonna imbibe, you gotta prescribe. That's what we say.

Hank Smith:	00:04:11	I love it. John, we've had Anthony on the show quite a few times, so we probably don't need to do a full bio, but for someone who's, who's Anthony Sweat ?
John Bytheway:	00:04:22	We love Anthony. He's so talented. I'm so glad he is here and not playing college basketball 'cause he was this close. He's also a great artist. He got a bachelor's degree in drawing and painting from Utah State before joining the religion faculty at BYU. He worked for 13 years with S&I, seminaries and institutes where he has really blessed my life and my kids' lives involves the temple and that's with the books, the Holy Invitation. The Holy Covenants, and you've got a new one coming out. The Holy Sealing . Is that out now?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:04:54	It should be out.
Hank Smith:	00:04:54	I'm holding it up right here.
John Bytheway:	00:04:56	Yeah, there it is. So excited for that. I just don't feel like I had the resources like that to prepare me for the temple. Anthony has done a great work. You read those books, you'll be much better prepared for what's about to happen and that's been a blessing sincerely, Anthony, to my children.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:05:15	Thank you. It was a blessing to write those and we hope this third and final book in that series will be a culmination of it. You know, kind of taking the approach with this one of, in the same way with the holy invitation of a big picture perspective of what sealing is doing. That was our thesis that we are approaching. We're not gonna get into specifics of a marriage and resealing. We're trying to look bigger picture doctrinally theologically. Hopefully that'll bless people in all their varied situations with sealing to understand the bigger picture.
Hank Smith:	00:05:46	John, I was thinking this morning as we were preparing that one of the greatest compliments I think I can give, and I think you'd agree, is that I share a book with my children. I read a lot of books and I enjoy them, but not very many do I say to my children, this is now required reading in the Smith house. Quite a few of them are Anthony Sweat books. He didn't ask us to do this, but Seekers Wanted.
John Bytheway:	00:06:11	That whole idea of being a seeker, yeah, that blessed me too, but I have to say on a personal note, running into Anthony at the Nauvoo Inn and having him treat my children with such joy and respect.

Hank Smith:	00:06:24	I need to say one more thing about Anthony. I know this is, I'm gushing a little bit, but Moroni 10 last year , John, that changed Moroni's promise for me forever. Here is something we have talked about in our lives since we were in primary and the fact that Anthony came in here and showed us things about Moroni 10 that we had never seen, that he had never seen even.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:06:51	Yeah, I saw that in prepping for this. That was awesome. That was a great experience for me to go like, oh, I see what is happening here in this chapter.
Hank Smith:	00:06:59	I hope that everyone, we can link that in the description on YouTube where we can link it in our show notes. Everyone go back and listen to that one and then this is a compliment. I think Alex Baugh, who we all love, who's coming on the show soon, said that Anthony's episode on section 88, 4 years ago was the best thing. He said, the best thing I've ever heard on section 88, which is quite a compliment coming from from Alex Baugh.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:07:28	Our beloved Alex. I'd say, well now I gotta bring it on Section 109, 110 then.
Hank Smith:	00:07:33	Yeah, yeah.
John Bytheway:	00:07:34	You gotta bring it.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:07:35	I don't know. I'm nervous now.
Hank Smith:	00:07:37	Thank you everyone for letting us gush a little bit there about our friend. Let me read from the Come, Follow Me manual and we will be underway. The lesson this week is called, It Is Thy House, a Place of Thy Holiness. The doors of the Kirtland temple weren't supposed to open until eight o'clock on the morning of March 27th, 1836, but Saints who were hoping to attend the dedication services started lining up as early as seven. An overflow location and then a second session were needed to accommodate everyone and it wasn't just the living who were eager to be present. Multiple witnesses saw angels inside the temple and even on the roof during and after the dedication. It really did seem that the armies of heaven had come to sing and to shout with the Latter-day Saints. Why the great excitement on both sides of the veil? After centuries, there was a house of the Lord again on the earth. The Lord was fulfilling His promise to endow His Saints with power from on high and this He declared was only the beginning of the blessing. The era we now live in with accelerated temple work and ordinances available to millions of the living and the dead had its beginning

in Kirtland when the veil over the earth was beginning to burst. Beautifully written. Anthony, you and I have been talking about this for months. How do you wanna get started?

- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:08:58 I think we should get started with what President Nelson said in his 2024 talk just to set the stage. Also, obviously we hope that what we say here can act as an enhancer, but that their own personal study of section 109 and 110 of them sitting down with that text in that revelatory space that this doesn't replace that, that this enhances it. [President Nelson](#) in his 2024 talk Rejoice in the Gift of Priesthood Keys, he mentioned section 109 specifically. He said, quote Joseph Smith's dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland temple is a tutorial about how the temple spiritually empowers you and me to meet the challenges of life in these last days. I encourage you to study that prayer recorded in Doctrine & Covenants section 109. That's a prophetic directive in General Conference to the whole church. I hope that all of us take that very seriously. Even in my rereading of section 109 and 110 multiple times to prep for this recording. While some things stood out, I learned a lot in the process. I would start there with the prophetic directive. I gotta give a little backstory of course, but upfront, let's make sure we're taking that directive to heart and studying these sections directly in the word on our own.
- Hank Smith: 00:10:22 Yeah. I have found when President Nelson gives a directive like that or any prophet, I think, I don't know if I have time for that and then I find I actually have quite a bit of time that I waste. It would be good for me and anyone else listening who thinks, man, I should do that. Well I'm on the same boat with you. Let's do it.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:10:40 Is it okay if I give a little history? 'cause we gotta see why this was such a culminating event.
- Hank Smith: 00:10:45 Yeah.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:10:45 And I don't wanna drown us too much in history 'cause I wanna be in the text, but we've gotta see what built up to this.
- Hank Smith: 00:10:51 Anthony, from what I've read, 1836 seems to be a good year for Joseph Smith and he doesn't have many of those.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:10:59 Yeah, this is a highlight year. This has been things building up for years and years to get to this zenith point in the history of the church in particular. After Joseph organizes the church and publishes the Book of Mormon, one of the first things he does is

he starts translating the Bible and as Joseph translated the Bible, he learned about high priesthood or that there were great high priests who had power. They had spiritual power to do the work of God. They had power to perform miracles and to have angels minister to them to set at defiance the armies of nations. They had power to receive revelation and call on the heavens and have them here. They had great spiritual power and these are people like Moses and Melchizedek and Enoch and others and the Lord revealed he wants to create a kingdom of priests like them in the latter days, great high priests and the church is only a handful of months old.

00:12:02 He tells 'em to gather to Ohio in section 38 verse 32. He says, there, I will endow you with power from on high. The first time we get that, then the church gathers to Ohio and when they get there, Joseph holds a conference in June of 1831. It's one of the most important conferences that's happened in the church. He sits down with about 60 elders and there he ordains the first high priest. In this dispensation, they gather according to the history that they might receive an endowment. They are going to fulfill the promise to receive an endowment. Joseph promises them that if they are pure, that within three days they can see the Savior face-to-face. At this June, 1831 conference, I don't know about you or any of the listeners out there, could you imagine being invited to a three day conference and the prophet promises you that if you're holy enough that within three days you can see the Lord.

00:13:00 Some of them at this conference do. They experience great miraculous powers and visions. [Lyman White](#), [Harvey Whitlock](#) and others, they see Jesus, they see the Father and the Son. Joseph sees the Father and the Son. However, many of them don't experience a divine outpouring of power. They don't feel they've been endowed. That's where you get section 67 where it says, if we read section 67, 10 to 13, there were fears in your hearts. You have not been sufficiently humble. This is the reason and then the Lord tells them, sanctify yourselves and the days will come that you shall see Him and He re-promises this gift. Joseph's big question is, okay, how do I make a bunch of men more holy? What should I organize and you guys know exactly where this is going. The Lord says, then section 88 comes organize a school of the prophets.

00:13:56 They have it as their thesis, section 88 verse 68 again, which is sanctify yourselves and the days will come that you see him. It'll be in God's own time and God's own way and according to his own will, but they're promised they can come into the presence of God. The Lord's gonna lay out a ton of requirements or things

to help sanctify them. He'll lay out things like be obedient, be temperate and chaste. Live the law of consecration, live the higher laws of the gospels all there in section 88. I go over that in the podcast if they link to that, so I won't rehash that here. He tells them, wash each other. Become clean from the blood and sins of this generation. He starts to lay all of this out. In January of, that's January of 1833 they organize what we call the school of the prophets.

00:14:47 Joseph is gonna work with them. In that same revelation, the Lord says, okay, meeting on the Isaac Morley farm was great in his little log cabin, but you need to establish a house, even a house of learning, a house of fasting, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God. In section 88, verse 118 and 119. That's where the Lord tells them, build a temple. That is gonna be their directive that they're gonna do their very best to fulfill. That's in the winter of 1833. The Lord's gonna rebuke them a few sections later in section 95 for not getting started yet. That's where you get the great story of Hyrum Smith right after 95 comes going and clearing the ground like, all right, let's do this and they're gonna work. They are gonna sacrifice. They are gonna labor. They are going to scrimp and dedicate and consecrate be obedient in this command for the next three years. They're gonna work to build this magnificent house of glory, house of the Lord. That sets the scene for what we're building up to, to dedicate this as a whole, and I wanna talk a little bit too about some of the pre-meetings 'cause they'll be important to understanding section 109. Anything you guys, well, what do you want to add there? What have I missed in building up that history?

John Bytheway: 00:16:02 What do we say to people that, oh, you don't need a temple. God's everywhere. God's in nature. Why would God require them to make a building? What you've just described, Anthony, is what happened to them personally as preparing to build the temple. It was becoming a temple people as they built it.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:16:19 Process of building a temple, built them into temple like people, but I would also argue God needs sacred space. God needs a holy place to manifest himself to his people. That's what he says in these revelations. He wants sacred ground as well and he wants us to prepare that ground to prepare ourselves as well. I think it's a dual thing.

Hank Smith: 00:16:43 Hmm. When you sit outside the Kirtland temple, I've sat there many times, there's a couple of benches there over on the side and you look up at that, you really take some time to think what it would've been like to be there. In the 2025 era of temples it is

not all that impressive, but when you put yourself back in 1836, the awe hits you where you think, how did they do this?

John Bytheway: 00:17:15

The phrase is out of their poverty. We built this house.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:17:19

This temple, to put it in perspective, there are around 2000 Latter-day Saints in the greater Ohio area in 1836. That is like your stake building a temple. Back in the day, it was hard enough for your stake to put on a road show let alone to build a house of God. Maybe to put it more in perspective, it's a little bit almost like a student stake because that's about how much money they have. You're getting roughly 2000 people who are gonna construct this magnificent edifice in a three year period of time and who have very little resources, but they have consecrated hearts, willing hands, and every one of 'em go to work. The great [Eliza R. Snow](#) said this about it. Quote, at the time the saints were few in number and most of them very poor and had it not been for the assurance that God had spoken and had commanded that a house should be built to his name of which he not only revealed the form but also designated the dimensions, an attempt toward building that temple under the then existing circumstances would've been by all concerned, pronounced preposterous. That was Eliza R. Snow's summary of their circumstances, what they accomplished and anybody who sees that building today, it's remarkable and the Lord's gonna reward them with heavenly blessings that are almost incomparable to other times in the history of the church.

Hank Smith: 00:18:54

The fact that it's still there, it's almost 200 years old now. It's not perfectly done. That's one thing I love about it. It is definitely an imperfect building. It's by divine design that it is still there.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:19:09

It is. The Lord will touch on this in section 110. He prophesies that the fame of that house will spread to foreign lands and that prophecy has been fulfilled in our day. I don't know the numbers, how many tens of thousands visit that building every year. This would be a good time to say how grateful we are to our fellow laborers in their own way in the restoration of the community of Christ for how well they took care and used that building and were great stewards. We're grateful that our church now, what was it in March of 2024? I think we were able to purchase it from them. The fact that we still have that we owe a huge debt of gratitude to them and their stewardship over that magnificent building so that those prophecies can be fulfilled, that the fame of this house would spread to foreign lands.

Hank Smith:	00:19:58	It is really something. You don't have to go to Kirtland to feel the power of it, but if you have the opportunity, it's worth seeing.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:20:06	Yeah. I think it was Elder Holland one time who said, you don't have to like go to the holy land to know that Jesus is the Christ, but if you do go, it ought to count for something. He said something like that.
John Bytheway:	00:20:16	Anthony, this background is really helpful. I love that you said they were told to build this and they didn't do anything and they were told again, and the phrase that always jumps out at me is, you're walking in darkness at noonday. It's like, I want to give you so much more. You have to build this house and become a people who can build it. Then when they did, all these things we're gonna talk about today that happened are amazing.
Hank Smith:	00:20:43	I don't know if the incredible Walter Rane has ever heard of our show, but if someone knows him out there, thank him for the picture. It's called the Kirtland Temple. If you haven't seen it, use your Google and thummim and go check this out. It hangs in the Kirtland historic sites visitor center. Isn't that the original?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:21:02	That's the original there. Yeah.
Hank Smith:	00:21:04	I know you're a Walter Rane fan.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:21:07	Huge. I'm actually the unofficial president of his fan club.
Hank Smith:	00:21:10	Yeah, I will be the vice president then. Yeah.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:21:12	Okay.
Hank Smith:	00:21:13	In a way, Brother Rane is showing what they did. They took their gifts and contributed them.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:21:20	Contribute to it. I mean, we've heard these stories for a long time, but one of them that's sweet to me is in February of 1836 is they're starting to near closer to completion and they're getting the details. It'll be the women of the church who come together and donate materials. They're the ones who sew the veils of the temple that can be hung in those courts to divide it up. I'm not sure if some of us realize that they saw those veils or those curtains that they would hang up around the pulpits as dividing the outer court from the inner court, almost like Solomon's temple, Holy of Holies. Everybody is pitching in in

every way they can to build this [monumental building](#). It's really incredible.

00:22:05 The first time I saw it, I'd only seen it in pictures, and the first time I was privileged enough to see it in person, I actually was blown away by how big it is. It was bigger than I thought. It was more beautiful than I thought. I had always kind of seen it as a glorified chapel, which that's bad on my part, but that's how I had seen it in photos and when I saw it, I thought, man, this thing is incredible. Not just the events of course that happened in it, but the preparation for those events to create this structure. Could you imagine that thing in 1836 in the Ohio Reserve? It had to have been one of the greatest buildings in the vicinity for hundreds and hundreds of miles.

Hank Smith: 00:22:47 If you're interested in what Anthony talked about there with the Solomon's temple, we did an episode with [Dr. Matt Gray](#) on Leviticus where he walks through that tabernacle temple. We can't do that here, but if you're interested, go back there. We can link that one in our show notes as well. Dr. Gray sets us up in a beautiful way with the ancient temple and what these saints are doing in the 1830s.

John Bytheway: 00:23:14 Just the fact that we're talking about a temple, not a chapel, but a temple. To me, it's like, what happened to that? What happened to that in, you know, most of Christianity was it? Oh no. That one temple was all we needed at the time. What happened? Here's in the restoration, all this talk of temples, temples, temples.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:23:32 Yeah. When the Lord tells the Saints to establish Zion in section 84, one of the very first things he tells them is that a temple needs to be reared so that the glory of the Lord can be there and his presence can be there. From the very beginning, Zion and Joseph will say, what's the whole point in gathering is to gather around a temple where the Lord can teach us of his ways. This temple is central. That restoration of a holy house for the Lord to teach his people of his kingdom and his ways to manifest himself and to give them power. What a testament of the restoration of bringing all things back.

John Bytheway: 00:24:14 The importance of it was such that, do you guys remember the movie? It was called [Mountain of the Lord](#), you remember?

Hank Smith: 00:24:20 Yeah.

John Bytheway:	00:24:21	It was mostly Wilford Woodruff. To me, one of the things that says the urgency and the importance of it, like you're saying, Anthony is Brigham Young barely gets into the valley, barely gets out of the wagon, puts his cane down in the ground and says, here we will build the temple of our God. It's like first thing he does.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:24:41	You just made him sound like he was like a hundred and he was probably like 45.
John Bytheway:	00:24:47	He was sick that day. Brethren, here, here we'll build the temple of our God and Wilford Woodruff was like, oh, there was a perfectly placed stick in a rock by the prop guy, but he grabbed and pounded it into the ground, is like, here's the spot. First thing is what? What do we eat? First thing is, is that lake salty? No. First thing is where are we gonna build the temple?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:25:09	Boom. Right here.
Hank Smith:	00:25:10	Yeah.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:25:11	Brigham also, when Joseph and Hyrum are martyred, first thing he says is, we're gonna finish this Nauvoo temple and endow and seal the Saints. It's temple from the get go. It's temple in Kirtland. It's temple in Nauvoo, it's temple in Salt Lake, it's temple today with our modern prophets continuing to lead with those same keys and revelatory direction from the Lord. It's centered. It really is. Everything in the Doctrine & Covenants, I've said this before and I'll say it again. The thrust of the Doctrine & Covenants pushes us to the holy temple. It culminates, it pushes us to the house of the Lord.
Hank Smith:	00:25:55	Anthony, this is something you may be covering as we talk here. When I take a group to Kirtland , one of the most common questions I get is, did they do temple ordinances here? Is there a sealing room? Is there an endowment room? Tell us what you would say.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:26:12	The Kirtland temple, for as magnificent as it is, it was a preparatory temple and a lot of it is because in section 110, those keys from Moses, Elias and Elijah had yet to be restored in the Kirtland temple. They did not do work for the dead in the Kirtland temple. They did not do the presentation of the Endowment in the Kirtland temple. They did not do sealings of families and children. The Kirtland temple, they did do some ordinances. I'll read a little bit about that 'cause it'll help us understand. 109, they did washings and anointings and

blessings there and they met there to fast and to pray with uplifted hands. They would go there covenanting to live these laws. It was a preparatory temple, but by the way, that wasn't for everybody. Joseph mostly did these washings and anointing blessings only with priesthood leaders in the church.

00:27:09 A few hundred men would've received those. It was not for everybody. It's a limited temple and it's limited who gets it. It will be in the Nauvoo temple where the presentation of the Endowment, work for the dead, sealing of families and extending that to all worthy adults. That's where that extends, but that does not happen in Kirtland. So in a lot of ways it's been referenced, if you wanna think of it this way as an Aaronic temple, a preparatory temple for the higher Melchizedek temple that came from the keys that get restored in Kirtland, but that manifest themselves in Nauvoo.

Hank Smith: 00:27:47 Yeah. It's Joseph who says, if you're gonna climb a ladder, you gotta start with the bottom step. This is maybe one of the steps.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:27:54 This is a key step to get 'em to where they're at, but that is important. That's why when you go in it, you won't see baptismal fonts and sealing rooms and endowment rooms that are sectioned off in a progressive state. It's a great house of the Lord. But remember the Saints did not have any chapels at this time either. It was their gathering place. It was like a tabernacle where the Saints could gather together and learn and preach and fast and pray and administer some preparatory ordinances.

Hank Smith: 00:28:25 Yeah. Joseph himself is learning. Yeah. He's not thinking, okay, well this is a preparatory temple to what I'm gonna give you later. He himself is wowed by what he's learning. Is that right? Is that fair?

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:28:37 I think that's fair. There's no indication at this point that he has any concept of the work for the dead. As I'll read, he has a vision of Alvin as we know in this temple, his brother Alvin, that passes away and he is surprised by it. So there's things Joseph is learning from the get-go about Elijah and the restoration of sealing power, but there's evidence that he's still learning about sealing. Joseph is learning line upon line and bit by bit. This Kirtland temple is that [preparatory](#) step to lead to these greater culminating ordinances in the temple that manifest in Nauvoo.

Hank Smith: 00:29:13 This isn't just three years. You go back to September of 1823, Moroni appears. He's talking about this.

Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:29:22	Yes. If I grabbed a hundred Latter-day Saints and said, who restored the priesthood to Joseph Smith? The kneejerk reaction is what?
Hank Smith:	00:29:32	John the Baptist, Peter, James and John,
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:29:35	Peter, James and John, crucial and important. They gave Joseph the priesthood keys and powers necessary to administer the covenant of baptism and to organize the church. Read about those keys in section 27 and in section 128. However, that is not who Moroni mentions when Joseph's a wee 17-year-old, he says, Joseph, I will reveal unto you the priesthood by the hand of Elijah the prophet. We'll touch on that when we get to section 110. Why is Elijah's priesthood this pinnacle priesthood? The Lord has been pointing Joseph's mind to this moment since 1823. We're gonna see that coming 13 years later in 1836, and there's a lot that Joseph's gonna learn in those years and up to then and later about what Elijah and his keys are doing.
Hank Smith:	00:30:27	I'll reign in my excitement.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:30:29	Oh, so exciting.
Hank Smith:	00:30:31	This is what we do for fun.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:30:33	So awesome.
Hank Smith:	00:30:33	It is. Have we got the background do you think?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:30:37	One more bit of background history that can be helpful is that by January of 1836 the temple had been finished enough to the point that in the third floor where those dormer windows are those offices or the school meeting house, Joseph has an office at the far end of those and they start holding some sacred meetings starting in January of 1836 up in those third floor rooms while the rest of the temple is having the finish work done. So let me just read a little bit from Joseph's own journal here on January 21st, 1836, Joseph and a number of church leaders, including his father and Oliver and Hyrum, Joseph says that they went to the printing loft by the temple where there was a schoolhouse quote where we attended to the ordinance of washing our bodies in pure water. We also perfumed our bodies and our heads in the name of the Lord.
	00:31:32	They then went to the third floor of the temple on this far west school room where Joseph's office was and Joseph says, quote, they went there to attend to the ordinance of anointing our

heads with holy oil. They then anointed that oil and blessed each other. Joseph says, we invoked the blessings of heaven. They had great glorious visions. When this happens is during these January meetings, this is when Joseph has his vision of the Celestial Kingdom open up where he sees the Father and the Son. He sees Adam, Abraham and he sees his own mother and father and then sees his brother Alvin in the Celestial Kingdom, and that's where we get the great teachings that almost act as a, he wonders how Alvin had obtained the Celestial Kingdom and the Lord tells him that all those who would've received the gospel had they been permitted to tarry can be heirs of that kingdom.

00:32:24 So it lays the groundwork ironically for the temple keys that will be restored in section 110 from Moses, Elias and Elijah. Joseph not only does that with some of the church presidents he calls them, he also is going to meet with other key church leaders like the Twelve and the Seventy and the High Councils of Kirtland and Missouri. There a few days later, they hold the same meetings. They go through washings and anointings and blessings and prayer, and they have glorious visions. This is just from their record quote, the gift of tongues fell upon us in mighty power. Angels mingled themselves with their voices with ours while their presence was in our midst and unceasing praises swell our bosoms for the space of a half an hour. Joseph says he finally went home at two o'clock and he recorded in his journal the Spirit and visions of God attended me through the night. This is in January of 1836 months before March of when the Kirtland temple will be dedicated. But if we understand that those preparatory meetings happened, then when we read about Joseph praying for the anointing to be sealed upon them in section 109, you understand better, oh, they had some preliminary meetings in here preparing them for an endowment of power and experiencing miraculous visions that might contextualize section 137 and the vision of Alvin a little bit more too.

John Bytheway: 00:33:57 You get the sense that the Lord was anxious to give them blessings, which I love. When I think of [Elder Kearon's](#) statement of him being in relentless pursuit of us, he was relentlessly say, well, you just build the temple so I can outpour so many blessings even before the dedication, like you said in January. That's interesting.

Hank Smith: 00:34:20 One thing that we've learned on our [Voices of the Restoration](#) episodes John, with Dr. Dirkmaat is Joseph Smith's example of having unanswered questions. Alvin dies in late 1823, right Anthony?

Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:34:36	Yeah. Yep.
Hank Smith:	00:34:38	There's an unanswered question right there. What happens?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:34:41	Mm-hmm.
Hank Smith:	00:34:41	What happens to Alvin? Then 1830 the church is organized, but Alvin's not there. Then section 76, there's a Celestial Kingdom, but you have to be baptized. Oh, well I guess Alvin's not gonna be there. Where are we at now? Yeah, we're at 10 years of an unanswered question. Then section 137 in 1836, it's now been 13 years of an unanswered question. Alvin is in the Celestial Kingdom, but still the question is, well, how's that? How's that? Section 76 I thought you had to be baptized to go to the Celestial Kingdom and Anthony, isn't it 1840s where that question is answered? I know that not everybody gets a chance to listen to our Voices of the Restoration, but I thought that was such a profound example of what you do with an unanswered question.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:35:34	Yeah. You wait and you let the Lord reveal things line upon line. Sometimes we want the answer, the solution, the fix right away. But remember the Lord is going to be doing his work of atonement, making things at one, complete, whole all the way up through the end of the millennium before he subdues all enemies under his feet. We've gotta learn to let the Lord work with us individually, with his church, with the world line upon line, precept upon precept over time.
John Bytheway:	00:36:08	I can think of other examples of that same idea. One of my Bythewayisms I love to tell my students you want Google speed answers to golden questions. Google, Siri, Alexa will tell you something like that. But golden questions they come in God's time. I'm thinking of what we learned Hank from John chapter six. Remember way back then, remember that New Testament thing where Jesus says, you have to drink my blood. There's a Levitical law against that, right? They must have been, we can't. That's when some no longer followed him and Jesus says, will you also go away? But Peter knows I'm gonna stick with you 'cause someday I'll get the answer. You have the words of eternal life. Where would we go? And he does. The Lord later reveals, this is what you're gonna do in remembrance of me. As a remembrance you'll take the wine or the water. That was to me is one of those of Peter saying, I know I'm gonna get this one day so I'm gonna stick with you 'cause one day I know I'll get the rest of the story.

Hank Smith:	00:37:20	I'm confused now, but I trust. I trust. I'm, I'll move forward waiting.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:37:24	Yeah.
Hank Smith:	00:37:25	Yeah. Anthony, let's keep going. What do you wanna do next?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:37:27	Okay. Joseph writes in his journal on March 26th, the day before of section 109. He just says, after breakfast I met with the presidency to make arrangements for the solemn assembly, which occupied the remainder of the day. End of quote, Oliver Cowdery records in his journal: met in the president's room with President Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, my brother, Warren Cowdery and Elder Warren Parish and assisted in writing a prayer for the dedication of the house. Joseph says his prayer was given by revelation like Elder Rasband and others today who have talked about modern dedications of temple and the Lord giving them lines of phrases of things to say to dedicate this temple. But Joseph says this was given by revelation . It was not a spontaneous prayer. He wrote it down. By the way, one of the reasons why it might have taken all day is because they also will print the prayer, meaning there's a printing office that's right by the Kirtland temple at this time.
	00:38:31	They would've written it down and set the type and printed it up so that Joseph could read from a printed copy that they will then include in the Messenger and Advocate. They're spending a lot of time getting this prayer right, getting it written, getting it printed, letter by letter typeset. The next day is Joseph goes to dedicate this. He pulls this out and reads this revelatory prayer, which is what section 109 is. I think Joseph's giving us a model of powerful prayer, revelatory prayer here. The scene of the day, it's Sunday, March 27th. It's a Sabbath day. That's the day of the dedication. Hank, as you read, they wanna start it at nine, but so many people get there they open the doors early and they can't accommodate everybody, so they send some into overflow buildings in the schoolhouse next door so that they can hold their own meeting. Joseph will hold another dedicatory session later that week for those who couldn't fit in, but according to Joseph, they crowd a thousand people in there.
John Bytheway:	00:39:31	Which is hard to believe.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:39:33	Yeah, personal space violated everywhere.
John Bytheway:	00:39:36	I am looking in that going, how did they do that? No flashing exit signs anywhere, but how did they get a thousand in here?

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:39:46 Yeah. I want you to picture the people come in and crowd in. They have those beautiful four tiered pulpits on both ends of the lower and upper court. They're in the lower court, so you can paint a visual in your mind, look towards the, what we would call the Melchizedek pulpits, and on the top row is Frederick G. Williams, Joseph Smith Sr. in the top center seat, the patriarch of the church and the prophet's father obviously, and then WW Phelps. Second to the top is Sidney Rigdon, Joseph Smith Jr. in the middle and Hyrum Smith, third row down, David Whitmer, Oliver Cowdery and John Whitmer. Fourth row down on the one where the sacrament table is so to speak, is the presidency of the high priest. We would probably call that the stake presidency today. On the opposite pulpits, the Aaronic pulpits on the other side top row, you have the bishopric of Kirtland.

00:40:42 Second row you have the bishopric of Missouri or Zion. Third row down you have the teacher's quorum presidency, which at that time were adult men. Fourth row down you have the deacon's quorum presidency, again, adult men, and then in the pulpits on the sides, those corner ones that looked like choir seats, the Quorum of the Twelve were sitting in one, the high council sitting in another, the elder's quorum presidency and the other just a really, really cool scene of the power of the priesthood, structure of the church to guide the saints of those who are in those callings. At that time, Sidney Rigdon is gonna be the one who conducts the meeting, has a large part of the dedicatory session. Sidney Rigdon will read Psalms 96 and 24. The choir then sings Adam-ondi-Ahman. Sidney gives an opening prayer. He then gives a sermon based off Matthew 8:18 to 20 about how foxes have holes and birds have nest, but the son of man has nowhere to lay his head.

00:41:42 He preaches on those three verses for two and a half hours.

John Bytheway: 00:41:46 Incredible.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:41:48 You thought that high council talk was long. Sidney is a powerful preacher. This is from the Messenger and Advocate quote, no one unequated with the manner of delivery and style of our speaker can from reading form any adequate idea of the powerful effect he is capable of producing in the minds of his hearers. To say that he did exceedingly well would be halting praise, so his two and a half hour talk was epic. People just loved it. They then sustained Joseph as the prophet and seer, and by the way, the way they sustained him was when Sidney puts his name to sustain Joseph, everybody in that room stands up to sustain him, which is a cool visual as well. At this time,

they already have to have a 20 minute intermission. Nobody leaves, no one gives up their seat except for a few women, according to the record, had to care for some children, but they stay put.

00:42:49 They then come back, they sing a hymn. They sustain the First Presidency and the Twelve as prophets and seers. Then Joseph arises to give this dedicatory prayer. That's what sets it all up. I think. With that, should we get into 109? Finally, I like to give breakdowns of sections so you can maybe know how to approach it on your own at home. This is just my own breakdown, so nothing official, nothing definitive. You might see different verses, but to me verses one through five is Joseph's intro and his plea to the Lord. Verses six to 42 these are promises of endowment and the blessings of the temple. Verses 43 to 53 is a prayer for the church's enemies verses 54 to 67 is his prayer for the rest of the world and in particular for the House of Israel, and then verses 68 to 80 is a prayer for a blessing upon the church's leaders and the church as a whole. Those five sections, you know it's not a perfect breakdown, but that can maybe help you at home see some shifts and some focuses as you go through this prayer.

John Bytheway: 00:44:07 Love that.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:44:08 Let's start in the first section verses one to five, his intro and his plea. I love in verse one, the first thing he says is thanks be to thy name, oh Lord God of Israel who keepest covenant. I love that. I would mark and highlight that. On my Instagram I recently posted a little something and I made a little comment about the oath and covenant of the Father, and I put in parentheses, yes, God has covenants too that he keeps, and when I wrote that I thought, is that accurate? Is that doctrinally accurate? And then I read this in section 109 verse one that he, God keeps covenants. One thing that I would say up front here that back to Joseph's pattern of prayer, one of the things you'll notice through this whole section is Joseph will say, as thou hast said, or based on like this promise, Joseph is pleading for God to fulfill his promises that God has made like you promised us, your glory would be here.

00:45:11 You promised you'd manifest yourself. You promised, and he's pleading in a humble way for God to fulfill the very covenant promises that the Lord asked. That might be a great insight for you and I, as we pray, is rather than only asking for what we want to look at what we want and ask ourselves what has God promised in connection to what we need and then to call upon God to fulfill those promises because he keeps his covenants. I

		just love that right from the very get go, you keep covenants and I'm gonna call upon those promised blessings.
John Bytheway:	00:45:51	I'm embarrassed to say sometimes I've quoted my patriarchal blessing to heavenly Father. Look, it says right here in paragraph five that you're gonna do this right?
Hank Smith:	00:46:00	You signed this.
John Bytheway:	00:46:03	I love that and I like the way you said it Anthony he's humbly saying, we've tried to do this so that this promise can be fulfilled. We've tried to do this so that this covenant can be fulfilled.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:46:13	Yeah, I don't wanna frame it as Joseph being demanding, but he's definitely showing he's listening. He's listening to the Lord and he is like, I know you've promised this, and I wanna call on the fulfillment of that promise. Again, in the intro, his big plea is in verse four where he says, we ask the Holy Father in the name of Jesus Christ, the son of thy bosom, and whose name alone salvation can be administered to the children of man. We ask thee oh Lord, to accept of this house, the workmanship of the hands of us, thy servants, which thou did command us to build. You could almost hear Joseph saying, please accept this as your house. We've built this for you. We've done our very best. Will you accept this? By the way he's gonna close next to verse four, I would mark verse 78. He is gonna close the prayer in verse 78 by again saying, oh hear, oh hear, oh hear us, oh Lord, like three times that triple pleading and answer these petitions and accept the dedication of this house unto thee, the work of our hands, which we have built unto thy name. He almost repeats verse four, comes back to it to close off the prayer. That's his plea. That's what he's hoping will happen.
Hank Smith:	00:47:38	If I wanted to mark the triple calling upon the Lord, where would I find those?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:47:43	That was in verse 78. Started in verse six, I blocked out six to 42 for some of these promises of endowment from six to nine, he's going to cite Doctrine & Covenants 88:117 to 120 where the Lord commands them to build a house, a house of prayer, a house of fasting from that, so that's six through nine. Quoting section 88, President Nelson , he said this about these verses, quote, this list of attributes is much more than a description of a temple. It is a promise about what will happen to those who serve and worship in the house of the Lord. They can expect to receive answers to prayer, personal revelation, greater faith, strength, comfort, increased knowledge, and increased power. I

actually like to take those verses and ask myself, am I a man of prayer? Am I a man of fasting? Am I a man of faith, a man of learning, a man of glory, a man of order? Am I a man of God? And if I'm not, how can the holy temple help me to become such? Back to what we've said, this isn't so much of them building a building. It's what the temple's building in us, my testimony that the more we worship in the house of the Lord, these attributes, these godlike attributes will be built in our lives as well.

- Hank Smith: 00:49:10 Anthony, what you just said reminds me of one of my favorite [BYU speeches](#). Listen to this. Becoming endowed with divine power is a little bit like going through a university program or degree. Just because we've been accepted doesn't make us educated. The education comes slowly, even painfully, especially when everything is due at the same time around finals. Rarely does learning come dramatically or all at once. Most of it comes almost imperceptibly. Over time, the tuition of education is paid by persistence, but because of dedicated diligence, we've developed more power and capacity in our respective lives and fields than we had just a few years ago. In the Lord's Temple we similarly grow in power and capacity by degrees as we learn and diligently implement the holy covenants and concepts over time. Now, listen to this John. You and I may fail to understand some assignments.
- 00:50:13 The Temple textbook often requires a lot of rereading to grasp the meaning, but the master teacher's rubrics of standards is very clear, this most blessed professor holds open door office hours every day, and he is more than happy to revise your grade as you redo the assignments again and again as you figure things out. He believes in mastery learning and his semester never ends. But stop skipping or sleeping through class and don't you dare drop out because you think it's too hard or too confusing or not for you. Go to his class again and again and let him teach you. You will find yourself learning and growing and becoming endowed with more divine power and capacity as you do. John, I don't know if you've ever read or listened to this devotional. It's called We Need an Endowment. The speaker has great hair. His name is Dr. Anthony Sweat, and I'm just gonna encourage everyone, please go to speeches.byu.edu. look up We Need an Endowment. It will pair perfectly with your study this week. That was a good devotional, Anthony.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:51:25 Thanks buddy. Thanks for proofreading a version of it Hank, giving me feedback on it. Those were probably all your lines.
- Hank Smith: 00:51:33 Yeah, I remember actually writing that specific section.

John Bytheway:	00:51:37	I love the lines, learn, grow, and become. I feel like maybe this is just me, but I feel like ever since President Dallin H. Oaks talk, the Challenge to Become was that in 2000 more of an emphasis on not just what we're supposed to know, not just what we're supposed to do, but the whole outcome is what are we becoming. Even in our brief discussion today, what were these people becoming by preparing a temple, a house of the Lord, and then what does the Lord want us to become? When I hear become, I love that word, it's a process.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:52:12	It is a process, and maybe that links in really well with Joseph's prayer. If we can jump to verse 15, look what he says here, that they may grow up in thee and receive a fullness of the Holy Ghost. Now, those are two powerful lines. Joseph is praying for the Saints here that we can grow up in the Lord. He's almost referencing here a little section 93, grace by grace growth, and I love that line, a fullness of the Holy Ghost. Our prophets have taught repeatedly that through the holy temple and the Endowment of power from on high, we receive a fullness of the Holy Ghost. This is Elder Renlund, quote, by making and keeping Temple covenants, we learn more about the Lord's purposes and receive a fullness of the Holy Ghost. We receive increased capacity to fulfill our purposes in mortality. President Nelson in 2024 said, we are promised in the temple we may receive a fullness of the Holy Ghost. Imagine what that promise means in terms of having the heavens open for each earnest seeker of eternal truth. End of quote.
	00:53:27	I think it's important for us to grasp here that just as anybody can be influenced by the Holy Ghost, when we get baptized, we are commanded to receive the Holy Ghost. We have to live our lives in such a way to receive that constant influence of the Holy Ghost, but we are then pointed towards the Holy Temple where we are promised a fullness of the Holy Ghost or a greater endowment of power that comes through the covenants and concepts of the Holy Temple, that if we'll implement those, the Holy Ghost will be more poured out even more fully upon us. We have to go receive that. We don't receive the Holy Ghost in a day. We don't get endowed with power in an hour. It takes a lifetime of learning to implement the covenants and the concepts to really receive a greater, greater portion of this fullness of the Holy Ghost that's prayed here and promised here.
Hank Smith:	00:54:28	But one might go into the temple for the first time and come out saying, oh, I don't feel all that different. Yeah, that's because you've experienced a tiny portion.

Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:54:37	Yeah. I mean that's like a little bit also like saying, I went to the gym and lifted for 10 minutes and my body's not transformed. Yeah, some of us are just built naturally like Hank or John, but the rest of us
Hank Smith:	00:54:53	have to work at it a little bit.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:54:55	Have to work at it day by day. In verse 20, he says, no unclean thing shall be permitted to come into this house to pollute it. There he's gonna make a reference to section 97 of the Doctrine and Covenants where the Lord says, build a house unto my name. Do not suffer any unclean thing to come into it, that it be not defiled, and if so, my glory shall rest upon it. Yea and my presence shall be there for I will come into it and all the pure in heart that shall come into it shall see God. A few comments with that. Number one, President Eyring said he connects seeing God and being insufficiently pure President Eyring says this, President Russell M. Nelson made clear for us how we can see the Savior in the temple in the sense that he becomes no longer unknown to us.
	00:55:52	President Nelson said this, we understand him. We comprehend his work and his glory, and we begin to feel the infinite impact of his matchless life. Then President Eyring says, if you or I should go to the temple insufficiently pure, we would not be able to see by the power of the Holy Ghost, the spiritual teaching about the Savior that we can receive in the temple when we are worthy to receive such teaching, there can grow through our temple experience, hope, joy, and optimism throughout our lives. That hope, joy, and optimism are available only through accepting the ordinances performed in holy temples. There's a few things to unpack there, but the Lord does want us to come into His house worthy. If there's anybody listening right here who, sometimes we are extremely hard on ourselves, I love in this very prayer where Joseph says in verse 21, and when thy people transgress any of them that they may speedily repent and return to thee.
	00:56:57	None of us are free from sin and imperfection and fault and failure. None of us. The greatest way that we can live the gospel is to speedily repent. When we see ourselves drifting from a standard or a teaching that we know we should be living, and if they're serious, then we visit with our priesthood leaders. We work with them to be worthy to go to the Lord's house in openness and honesty, not demanding perfection. For many of us, the Lord wants our dedication and that dedication is often manifest through repentance. I just love that connection, like let's be clean and if any of us have drifted, let's speedily repent

so that we can come into this house knowing that we're being honest and open before the Lord.

Hank Smith: 00:57:44 Anthony, I'm so glad that you said that it's built into the program. It doesn't say, and if thy people transgress, and when thy people transgress, that's a very hopeful thing that you've said. It's not meant to keep you out. It's meant to bring you in.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:58:03 Yep. Let's never forget that repentance is part of the gospel. It is just as joyful as faith. Faith, repentance, baptism, Holy Ghost, all four of those are positive. Not three out of the four. All four of them are wonderful gifts. It's not a question of if we're gonna sin, it's only a question of if we're gonna repent.

Hank Smith: 00:58:27 Yeah.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:58:28 I've come to know in my life a Lord of mercy who delights in mercy, both in my own life as I've had to grow in degrees, try to receive more and more of the Holy Spirit and become bit by bit endowed with power. The Lord has been so merciful with me, conditioned on repentance always, but I've also had the privilege to witness him be so merciful with others conditioned on repentance. If there's anybody listening who feels that they're too far off the path or too far gone or they can't come around or that they can't make it to the house of the Lord, I testify you can. The power of the Lord's grace and his atonement is beyond what you and I can comprehend to bring us back to him and back to his house, to his presence.

John Bytheway: 00:59:25 I had the same thought, Hank, when thy people transgress, I love the comma and then the any of them. Don't count yourself out of this group right here. I thought that was beautiful. The question isn't if we're gonna sin the question is if we're gonna repent. Yeah, that's good. Beautiful.

Hank Smith: 00:59:45 I like the four Rs of verse 21. Repent, return, restored and reverence.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:59:52 That's great Hank.

Hank Smith: 00:59:53 That's the pirate's favorite letter too. Arrrrr.

John Bytheway: 00:59:56 No, it be the C.

Hank Smith: 01:00:02 I could feel the rolling of the eyes across the listeners. I sense great disturbance in the listeners.

Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:00:13	Can we jump to verse 22?
Hank Smith:	01:00:15	Oh yes. This is one of my favorites
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:00:17	And we ask thee, Holy Father, that thy servants may go forth from this house armed with thy power and that thy name may be upon them and that thy glory be round about them and thine angels have charge over them. Mark right there. Four blessings of the temple, you'll be armed with greater power. I don't know a single soul who doesn't need greater power to do good and to be good and to do right and to do God's work. We all need to be more armed with power. Second blessing, the Lord's name will be upon them. In the temple as Elder Bednar has taught, he gave a great talk back in 2009 called Honorably Holding a Name and a Standing. He taught that in the holy temple we more fully and completely take upon us the name of Jesus Christ, that the waters of baptism point us to the Lord's house.
	01:01:18	We are more able to have the Lord's name upon us. Third blessing, the Lord's glory will be round about them. By the way, without getting too deep on that one, the Lord's glory is centered in bringing other people up to eternal life. This is my work and my glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. We glorify the Lord by bringing other people up to him. So how will the Lord's glory be round about us? It'll help us in our families and in our relationships and in our wards to bring other people to Christ and to the Father. The Lord's glory will be upon you. I read that as you and I'll better be able to serve in our families and in the church to do his work. And then last, angels will have charge over you and I. We'll have help from the other side of the veil to teach, to bless, to guide, to lead, to correct. I don't know. Those are four pretty good blessings of the holy temple right there in that one verse alone.
John Bytheway:	01:02:23	I just put numbers in the side of that verse for those four promises, angels have charge over them. Yesterday I was talking to Kim about this idea. Don't you think if there's a whole lot of delegating here in the way we do things in the kingdom of God on Earth, that there's gotta be a lot of delegating there? We're talking about who these angels might be. I have a quotation from John Taylor. This is my favorite President John Taylor quote. It's one of those that just gets better and better. He said, God lives and his eyes are over us and his angels are round and about us. It gets better. And they are more interested in us than we are in ourselves. And then it gets better. 10,000 times but we do not know it. The idea of angels being more interested in us than we are in ourselves, then put the number 10,000 to it.

Whoa. They are interested in us more than we are in ourselves, which is astonishing 'cause we all know people who are pretty interested in themselves, but this has said 10,000 times more. 10,000 interested. What a beautiful statement that the other side cares about what we're doing.

- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:03:46 Yeah. Joseph Smith said, the heavenly priesthood will unite with the earthly priesthood.
- John Bytheway: 01:03:54 Oh man.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:03:55 The heavenly priesthood are not idle spectators. I love that phrase. They're not idle spectators. As you were saying that, John, I pulled up this quote from [Joseph F. Smith](#). When messengers are sent to minister to the inhabitants of this earth, they're not strangers, but from the ranks of our kindred friends and fellow beings and fellow servants. In like manner, our fathers and mothers, brothers, sisters, and friends who have passed away from this earth, having been faithful and worthy to enjoy these rites and privileges, may have a mission given to them to visit their relatives and friends upon the earth, bringing from the divine presence messages of love, warning, reproof, and instruction to those whom they learn to love in the flesh.
- John Bytheway: 01:04:43 Hank, I'm gonna hold this up and will you read it?
- Hank Smith: 01:04:45 It says, don't underestimate your family on the other side of the veil, Jeffrey R. Holland. That's beautiful, John.
- John Bytheway: 01:04:55 I know that so many of us as listeners have lost our parents. There's times when I've just been thinking of my dad and then the thought came to me. I wonder why I am thinking about him so intensely right now. Could he be helping me right now with this? Some of those moments, I think uh-huh, I think he is. I love that promise. It expands our view of the plan, doesn't it? On the other side of the veil, they're helping us. The other side of the veil is involved in this process that we're going through.
- Hank Smith: 01:05:30 John, if you remember, we had [Dr. Derek Sainsbury](#) with us. He's come on twice. It was, this was the first time he was on. We were talking about this very subject. He off the cuff said, well, you know that angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost. I stopped him. I said, what? He said, yeah, angels, our ancestors, they're gonna speak to us through the Holy Ghost second Nephi 32. I know that verse, but I'd never seen it like that. Of course, it's gonna feel like the Holy Ghost. I like what you said there, John, with a little touch of them who they are.

Anthony, didn't Joseph Smith say they can't be saved without us, and I think I understand that they don't have bodies. I do. But then didn't he reverse it and say, and we cannot be saved without them.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:06:23 And then he actually adds a third group and neither they nor us can be saved without those that died in the gospel also. He in context seems to be talking about those that died without the gospel and that were performing this work in their behalf, but he is also hinting that there are people on the other side that are laboring in our behalf, the faithful who have died in the gospel as well. There's two-way interaction here. Without going off too much on sealing since Cindy and I wrote that third book on sealing, part of what sealing is doing and that these keys that are gonna be given to Joseph is to create a link for families to organize heaven, and the church has taught heaven is organized by families. It's not so much about living with each other. Sometimes when we talk about sealing, we're like, oh yeah, we're gonna be together as though we're in the same celestial living room or something.

John Bytheway: 01:07:21 Same condo or something.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:07:22 Yeah. The eternal family barbecue. That falls apart really quickly. We realize that what sealing is doing, probably more than anything, is it's creating a divine network to facilitate the eternal reach of all of God's children so that none of them are lost and all of them could be ministered to, brought into the covenant. That desire to. It's a network of eternal ministry and that sealing creates that network that extends on both sides of the veil. It's powerful. I don't want to get too definitive or declarative on who these angels are that minister or that have these angels that have charge over us, but it seems that the sealing network is creating a linkage of those who do have a ministry to us, it seems logical that they'll come from our own family lines. They and us laboring together on both sides. It's a beautiful thought.

John Bytheway: 01:08:28 Yeah. I love the renewed emphasis for the youth on the temple. I think it started probably when [Elder Bednar](#) talked about, Hey, the youth are great with computers and technology, and maybe they can start really helping us do family history. I mean, do you remember the first time you heard deacons called to be family history specialists? Oh, what a cool thought that was. Now, when you go to the temple, it is so easy to take a member of your family, one of your cousins. You take those names to the temple. Perhaps that's more the norm now is that you're taking

a member of your family and making that network, as you said, I love that.

Hank Smith:	01:09:08	I think our grandparents who did the laborious family history work would be exceedingly astonished at how I can go onto my phone.
John Bytheway:	01:09:20	Family name. Boom.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:09:22	Ordinances ready.
Hank Smith:	01:09:24	Ordinances ready. Oh, yeah. This person needs some temple work done. I remember once walking out of the temple and I was at the prayer roll and I was writing a name on one of the papers there. My wife, she said, isn't that interesting that we come here and we get a little piece of paper with someone's name on it and we're gonna do a work for them, and then we leave a little piece of paper with someone's name on it. She said, I wonder if these are the names that those on the other side pick up and say, I've gotta go do a little work.
John Bytheway:	01:09:52	Oh, I love that, Sara that's awesome. Sarah bringing it home. That's cool. Our friend Sheri Dew , I love this statement of hers, the gospel of Jesus Christ reaches across the street, across the world, and across the veil.
Hank Smith:	01:10:10	Thine angels have charge over them. I think we could spend a long time there, Anthony, but let's keep going.
John Bytheway:	01:10:15	Yeah, we really could.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:10:15	Let's keep going. Let's look at some of these other blessings and again, President Nelson has told us to read this section and look for how the temple blesses us. Look at verse 24. We ask the Holy Father to establish the people that shall worship and honorably hold a name and standing in this thy house to all generations and for eternity. We're blessed through the temple and the later covenants and ordinances are revealed that we can honorably hold a name and standing in the house of the Lord, like as part of his people for all generations and for all eternity. Verse 25, we're promised that no weapon that is formed against us shall prosper. Connect it to verse 26, no combination of wickedness will have power to rise up and prevail over thy people upon whom thy name shall be put in this house. These are huge blessings that come from temple work.

- 01:11:22 Here's at least seven blessings that section 109 says can come to us through worship in the temple. Verse 15, you'll get a fullness of the Holy Ghost. Verse 22, you'll be armed with God's power. Verse 22, God's name will be upon you, his glory round about you and his angels have charge over you. Verse 24, you'll hold a name and a standing in God's house for all generations and all eternity. Verse 26, no combination of wickedness will have power to prevail over you. I'm gonna add a few more on there. Verse 34, as all man sin, forgive the transgressions of thy people and let them be blotted out forever and couple that with verse 42, speaking of the elders being faithful and preaching the gospel at the end of 42, they'll be clean from the blood of the wicked. There's a promise that your sins will be forgiven you and you can become clean from the blood of this wicked generation.
- 01:12:26 And then in verse 35, let the anointing of thy ministers. That's why I touched on that in the context that some of them had already been washed and anointed and blessed. Let the anointing of thy ministers be sealed upon them with power from on high. There's a minimum seven blessings of endowment that are listed right there in section 109. My wife and I, Cindy, as I was prepping for this, I shared with her some of those verses and we were talking. She said, you know, those are big concepts, big phrases, but we started to share with each other back and forth about how we had seen some of these that are evident in our own lives. I would invite any listener at home, look at these blessings that are listed here. Talk with your family members or your loved ones or the people who are around you.
- 01:13:20 Talk with them about how you've seen some of these blessings from the house of the Lord be present in your life. These are big, big promises, and I think they're part of what President Nelson was telling us in his 2024 talk to study and find the powers that help you and I meet the challenges of our life. Let's just never forget that endowment is not a ceremony. Endowment is a spiritual capacity. Endowment is a capacity or an ability to know God, to do his work, to overcome the adversary and to ultimately receive a fullness of his exalted blessings. 109 is laying out what some of those blessings are to help us do that.
- Hank Smith: 01:14:04 Anthony, let me repeat what you just said with a question. I've heard you say this many times. There is a difference between the presentation of the Endowment and the Endowment. I've even heard you say, if I can get that one thing.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:14:19 That one concept.

Hank Smith:	01:14:20	That one concept, it's gonna be well worth my time.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:14:25	Yes.
Hank Smith:	01:14:25	Why is that so important to you?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:14:27	That's so important to me because I know I have sometimes confounded those two ideas that because I went through the ceremony or because I went through the ritual or I made the covenants, or I received the promises, that somehow I'm endowed with power. Remember, section 84 says, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest or it's shown to us. In other words, ordinances act almost like a door that open up possibilities for us, but we have to go through that door and claim them. The moment that happens, it makes me say, oh, okay. These covenants and concepts that are being presented to me in the Endowment are manifesting God's character and will, or they're making possible things that I can obtain. If I will live the concepts and covenant, it makes endowment be active on my part. That's why I say, you and I don't get endowed with power in an hour.
	01:15:33	Let me give a personal experience in the current presentation of the Endowment, of course, we're given sacred information. We covenant to only reveal that at certain places to not do it publicly. People might be like, how does that endow me with power? The moment you and I start to go, oh, you're teaching me a concept that I am symbolically entering into a closer relationship with God and that he wants to see if I can be trusted in the same way that a spouse or a child might come to you and I and say, Hey, mom, hey dad. Hey honey, we gotta talk about something and don't air it to the neighbors, to the ward members. In the same way that a priesthood leader or Relief Society President has to receive information in a ministering interview but can't share it because it would betray confidence. In the same way in your work, you're given maybe some information that shouldn't be shared. You have to develop a character of confidence where people can trust you. This is a long way for me saying recently, the other day I had something come up and somebody asked me a question and I'll keep it somewhat vague, but I just had to say to the person, I can't go into that with you because that's confidential information and I hope you can respect my need to keep that confidential.
Hank Smith:	01:17:01	I made a promise.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:17:03	Yeah, I made a promise. Where I learn that kind of behavior is I learn it in the Endowment. I learn it in the Lord saying, oh, this

person has self-control and is willing to be trusted with confidential or sacred or private information. Therefore, I can trust them more. Joseph Smith one time said, why does the Lord not reveal his mysteries unto us? Because we cannot hold them, but share them when we shouldn't. I literally go through the Endowment presentation and I say, what is this teaching me to know or to feel or to do to be a more God-like person? And then I go try my best to implement that in my life and I notice that I have greater spiritual power. That's why I wanna separate there's a difference between presenting these concepts and receiving the power from them in our lives.

- John Bytheway: 01:17:54 Mm-hmm. As with so many things in the gospel, I feel like the older I get, the more I think that's not an event, that's a process. There's a difference between a temple wedding that's an event, but a celestial marriage, that's an ongoing process of ups and downs and repentance and working together, and when I even look at the article of faith number four, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Ongoing process. Repentance, ongoing process. Baptism. Okay, there's an event of baptism, but that is an event that signifies that process of being born again, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost as a reception of it, a process every day, and I think the more I think about it, the more everything is a growth becoming process.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:18:45 Receiving the Endowment of power is a process in the same way that building a celestial marriage is a process or being born again is a process.
- Hank Smith: 01:18:54 Sometimes we say things in a way that describe this inaccurately things like, I took out my endowments, or I was endowed last week. Again, probably not a big deal. I don't want that to come across like it's a big issue, but we could talk about it differently in a way that would more accurately describe what's happening.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:19:18 A good question to ask ourselves is, do I have more spiritual power in my life today than I did five years ago, 10 years ago, 20 years ago? Am I growing grace by grace? Am I, to use this phrase from this section, am I growing up in thee and getting more of a fullness of the Holy Ghost? Ask ourselves questions like, do I comprehend God better? Do I understand his work better? Am I more full of faith, hope, and charity? Am I more humble? Am I more able to serve others? Am I better in particular at being a great family member? Because eternal life is family life. This is why endowment is an ability. If we say somebody is endowed, they have some sort of a capacity or they have some sort of a strength, they have some sort of an

ability. These are questions we can ask ourselves to say, am I growing in my capacity? That's why the great talk from Brad Wilcox tying into section 88 to every kingdom there's a law given. We have to be able to abide by those laws. We have to grow in our ability to do so. It hints at this continued growth throughout life and into the next, not just a momentary event. It's not a one-time event. It's a eternal pursuit.

Hank Smith:	01:20:47	Anthony, you brought up verse 35. Let the anointing of thy ministers be sealed upon them with power from on high. Now, I know when I give a blessing to someone who is sick, there's two parts to that blessing. There's an anointing and a sealing. Are those tied together in the temple the same way? I mean, I know I start with an anointing in the temple and I finish with a sealing.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:21:11	That blessing is sealed in the temple. Yeah. That word, without getting too specific, that word is part of our initiatory blessings if we pay attention to it.
Hank Smith:	01:21:24	Same words, we use those same words in giving a blessing to a sick.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:21:28	Yeah.
John Bytheway:	01:21:29	I love that.



John Bytheway:	00:00:00	Welcome back to today's episode with Dr. Anthony Sweat Doctrine and Covenants 109 to 110.
Hank Smith:	00:00:08	Anthony, you said that this, verses one through five, an intro, a plea, verses six through 42, the promises of an endowment. What do we do next?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:00:19	The next section, 43 to 53, Joseph exemplifies exactly what the Lord tells us to do is to pray for our enemies. Joseph does that here in 43 to 53. He does a dual thing where he's like in 43, we delight not in the destruction of our fellow men. Their souls are precious before thee. I love that orientation. Their souls are precious. And then he says in 45, we know you've spoken terrible things concerning the wicked 46. Therefore, oh Lord, deliver thy people from the calamities of the wicked. 47 is remarkable. Remember those who have been driven by the inhabitants of Jackson County, Missouri, from the lands of their inheritance, 48, we've been greatly oppressed. Our hearts are full of sorrow, and then look at 50, have mercy upon the wicked mob. Now, these are the people we lost our Zion.
John Bytheway:	00:01:24	He's a better man than I am. I'm like, nope. Let them have it Lord.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:01:28	Let them have it and look at the end of 50 that they may repent of their sins if repentance is to be found; at the same time, if there cannot be otherwise, the cause of thy people may not fail before thee may your anger be kindled and indignation fall upon them and be wasted away root and branch under heaven. He's showing this beautiful like, hey, every soul is precious. These people have done hard things to us and if they'll repent, let's forgive them. But if they won't, help us out to overcome the wicked so that thy purposes and thy plans won't fail. It's a beautiful prayer for the wicked. Not tolerating it, not excusing it, but also a merciful orientation toward those who have oppressed our people at this time and driven us out of our Zion just a few years before this prayer.

Hank Smith:	00:02:24	That is something that we could all exemplify. I know I could have mercy upon our enemies.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:02:33	54 to 67 are gonna be now Joseph's gonna expand out to blessing the world and in particular the House of Israel in 54. Notice how he prays that the principles which were so honorably and nobly defended, namely the constitution of our land, be established forever. Then he is gonna pray for kings and princes and nobles from the great people of the whole earth that their hearts will be softened and thy servants can go forth and the work can go forward and 57, that all the ends of the earth may know that we as servants have heard thy voice and that thou has sent us. So he prays there for the broader world and the rulers of the world, but now in 58, he is gonna pray specifically that we can gather out the righteous and build a holy city. 59 appoint other stakes. He's praying for the broader church here, but this is gonna lead into his prayer for the gathering of Israel in 61.
	00:03:32	Thou has a great love for the children of Jacob who have been scattered upon the mountains for a long time in a cloudy and dark day. We therefore ask thee to have mercy upon the children of Jacob that Jerusalem from this hour may begin to be redeemed and then in 64 and that the children of Judah may begin to return to the lands which thou did give to Abraham their father. Bear in mind, by the way, at that time there were roughly 7,000 Jews who lived in Jerusalem. Today there's over a half a million that live in Jerusalem. In 1841, we will send one of our apostles Orson Hyde to dedicate the Holy Land, and part of that dedication is for the returning of the Jews. We literally are seeing a fulfillment of that prayer and that prophecy in the latter days today.
Hank Smith:	00:04:28	You know the early Zionist movement is the 18 hundreds.
John Bytheway:	00:04:32	Joseph McConkie would say that's a preliminary gathering because in order to really be gathered, they are gathered to Christ first and then to their lands. Sure sounds like they're gathering for a reason. I get that. We call that a preliminary gathering. This is just for us.
Hank Smith:	00:04:53	Back to verse 61, I have a son who's out on a mission. We talked extensively. I did most of the talking about the gathering of Israel. I love verse 61, the children of Jacob, children of Israel, who have been scattered upon the mountains for a long time, that the restoration is not just a restoration of Christ's New Testament church. It is a promise God made through Isaiah and others that yes, he was scattering Israel. They chose kings, Saul,

David, Solomon. The kingdom broke up, but one day I will gather you. As a missionary I taught the restoration of Christ's New Testament church. I think I overplayed my hand there when that's not what Moroni brings up in 1823. He says, this is a gathering of Israel. I think he got it. I talked quite a bit.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:05:57

Yeah. The more you talk, the more they get it.

John Bytheway: 00:05:59

Yeah. Yeah. It's a mathematic. Yeah. I think there is something, 'cause you hear it a lot. Jesus did have 12 apostles in a New Testament church, but when we start looking at these words, we see Jacob, we see Melchizedek, we see Aaron, we see Judah. This is all Old Testament, this is Elijah, this, we're all going, oh, as Joseph Fielding McConkie would say, oh, this is the old time religion. Abrahamic Covenant. Let's go bless all the families of the earth.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:06:32

Yep. Hank, the great thing is one day, like a year or two from now, your son is gonna say to you, Dad,

John Bytheway: 00:06:40

I learned the coolest thing.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:06:41

This is the broader gathering of all of God's covenant children, not just a New Testament restoration of his church. You're gonna be like, thanks son. That's wonderful insight. I never knew that.

John Bytheway: 00:06:54

Who taught you that?

00:06:54

How did you arrive at that? That's so fun though. When that happens.

Hank Smith: 00:07:01

Section 84 verse two, the restoration of his people.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:07:07

And this maybe ties back into his very first thing in verse one of this section, who keepest covenant. God covenanted with that great family from the very get go that his eye would be upon them and he had gathered them in, had reached to them for all eternity. 67 and may all the scattered remnants of Israel who had been driven to the ends of the earth come to a knowledge of the truth, believe in the Messiah, and be redeemed from oppression and rejoice before thee. Keepest covenant, including the covenant to gather his covenant lineage and family.

John Bytheway: 00:07:44

Then the ultimate gathering is gathering to a knowledge of the Messiah and who he is. That's why we could say preliminary gathering, you're in the right real estate, but you've got to

gather in your heart to Christ and who he is, like second Nephi, Hank.

- Hank Smith: 00:08:00 Yeah. Second Nephi can be difficult when you first start reading the Book of Mormon because you're going, I am lost in this language of Isaiah, but as you give it time, it starts to open up saying, you realize Nephi is almost obsessed with the future gathering of Israel here. It's being referenced, scattered Israel being gathered. I don't know if you guys have ever lived during a time where a president of the church really focused on that, but if you ever do.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:08:29 I don't know if that's been talked about at all.
- Hank Smith: 00:08:30 Yeah.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:08:32 We'll touch on that in section 110 a little bit.
- Hank Smith: 00:08:34 Okay, let's keep going.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:08:35 And then sixty-eight to the end is really a prayer for the leaders of the church and the church itself. Just a few that I'd want to touch on. 68, remember thy servant Joseph Smith, Jr. and all his afflictions and persecutions, how he has covenanted with Jehovah and vowed to the Almighty God of Jacob and the commandments which thou hast given unto him and that he has sincerely striven to do thy will. That's a great insight into Joseph Smith where he just says, Lord, I am doing my very, very best. Those are not the words of a charlatan. That is not the prayer of someone who's making things up. That's the prayer of someone who really receives revelation and has been given divine directives from Jehovah who is doing his very best to lay the foundation of this great work.
- Hank Smith: 00:09:32 You almost hear him saying, I am trying. I'm trying. Sincerely, I am trying.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:09:39 And we skipped this verse earlier, but in verse 31, I would almost pair this for thou knowest oh Lord that thy servants have been innocent before thee in bearing record of thy name for which they have suffered these things. Again, this is back to everybody's sins. Everybody makes mistakes in verse 34. I think too often, maybe we talk today about prophetic fallibility. We've sometimes almost swung the pendulum too far. Now, credit to my wife here, the sweetheart Cindy. Cindy likes to say this. I'll tell you one thing. Prophets are infallible in. They're infallible in their witness of Jesus Christ and his restored gospel.

I really love that statement. They are infallible in their special witness of Jesus Christ and to declare that witness to the world. Joseph, combining those two verses, we're doing our best. Please see my work. We have been innocent in bearing record of your name from the get go, which is why we've gone through some tough stuff.

Hank Smith: 00:10:43 I don't think I've ever noticed that word before. In verse 68, he asks, sincerely striven to do thy will. That's not a word we use very much, but it should sound familiar to anyone who's been in a temple recommend interview. Here's a couple of questions. Do you strive for moral cleanliness in your thoughts and behavior? These are published by the church. Do you strive to keep the Sabbath day holy? Do you strive to be honest in all that you do? I don't know if there's a connection there to section 109, but that's a place where that word is used again.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:11:21 It's a beautiful word. I love also where he prays in verse 69, he prays for his wife and children, Joseph, Emma and his children. He has, I believe, two little kids at this time that are living. He's lost a number in death but also in 70 have mercy upon all their immediate connections that their prejudices may be broken up and swept away as with a flood that they may be converted and redeemed with Israel. I personally interpret that as Joseph praying for Emma's family who never accepted the restored gospel and joined the faith in Joseph and Emma's lifetime anyway. Isaac and Elizabeth Hale. Then he prays in 71 for the presidents of the church and their families and in verse 72, remember all the church and their immediate connection, so he is now asking for a concluding blessing upon the whole church. 73 that thy church may come forth out of the wilderness of darkness, shine forth, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, terrible as an army of banners. Most people don't realize he's quoting Song of Solomon right there.

John Bytheway: 00:12:25 It's the only time you find the footnote song that I can think of. That's such a cool phrase.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:12:33 It's a cool phrase. Thinking of the church, 74. He is gonna go, John the Revelator book of Revelation language, be adorned as a bride for the day when thou shalt unveil the heavens, cause the mountains to flow down at thy presence. He's quoting scripture all through this 75 when the trump shall sound for the dead. Little Moroni there and Book of Revelation we'll be caught up to meet thee 76 that our garments may be pure, clothed with robes of righteousness, palms in our hands, crowns of glory. He's weaving in all the scriptural language and then he concludes again, 78 Oh hear, oh hear, oh hear us oh Lord, and

answer these petitions and he asks for the Lord to accept the dedication of this house and I love in 79 and also this church to put upon it thy name. This probably isn't the right time for this, but the original church was the Church of Christ.

00:13:36 During the mid 1830s, they start calling themselves the Church of the Latter-day Saints and on the outside of the [Kirtland](#) Temple, ironically it said the Church of the Latter-day Saints, and in 1838 the Lord says, no, call my church the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to put upon it the name of Christ. We gotta read 79 and 80. It's such a resounding conclusion and help us by the power of thy Spirit that we may mingle our voices with those bright shining seraphs around thy throne and with acclamations of praise, singing Hosanna to God and the Lamb and let these thine anointed ones be close to salvation and thy saints shout aloud for joy. Amen and amen. You could almost picture the congregation standing up and shouting amen right there.

Hank Smith: 00:14:26 What a prayer.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:14:28 What a prayer is right. When he does finish, by the way they do sing the Spirit of God. [WW Phelps](#) writes that hymn for that [dedication](#). They sing it together. Then they do for the first time what we call the Hosanna shout. With that hosanna shout, this is from Joseph's own journal. That day we then sealed the proceedings of the day by a shouting Hosanna to God and the Lamb three times, sealing it each time with amen, amen and amen. Incredible morning. They started the meeting at 9:00 AM they concluded at 4:00 PM It was a seven hour dedicatory meeting.

00:15:08 I left out there some testimonies from Oliver and Don Carlos, Sidney Rigdon got up and added a few more remarks just 'cause he didn't quite polish it off in his two and a half hours in the morning, I guess and then this is the best. Brigham Young gets up and speaks in tongues and David W. Patton interprets it and they sing in tongues. It really is a Pentecostal outpouring. Really incredible that night, by the way, even more, Joseph will meet with about 300 priesthood holders that evening, and this is Oliver Cowdery's journal. The Spirit of God was poured out. I saw the glory of God like a cloud come down and rest upon the house and fill the same like a mighty rushing wind. I saw cloven tongues like as a fire rest upon many, many spake with tongues and prophesied. Even that evening, they come back and have fulfillments of some of the things Joseph prayed for that very morning.

	00:16:06	Before we get to 110, sometimes we jump from like, oh, they dedicated it in section 109 on that Sunday. Then the next Sunday, section 110 when the angels come, but don't overlook the Tuesday and Wednesday of that week. In between, they met again with numerous priesthood leaders. Mostly at this time Joseph is working with men and priesthood leaders and the councils of the priesthood in Nauvoo. Of course, he expands this to washing and anointing and endowing the women of the church as well. But on Tuesday and Wednesday in between the dedication and before the next week, Joseph meets and they have incredible experiences, visions, prophecy, revelations, tongues, angels, ministering. This is Joseph's journal. On Wednesday, March 30th. From those two days of meetings, quote the Savior made his appearance to some while angels ministered to others. It was a Pentecost and an endowment or endowment indeed long to be remembered and the occurrences of this day shall be handed down upon the pages of sacred history to all generations as the day of Pentecost so that this day shall be numbered and celebrated. I had to read that just so that we could fulfill that very prophecy. The things that they experienced that day and that week and the next Sunday. They really are a Pentecost and an endowment, a zenith of heavenly outpourings.
John Bytheway:	00:17:39	Here we are talking about 'em right now.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:17:42	Yep.
Hank Smith:	00:17:43	Anthony, we always do our podcast in two parts. I don't think of all episodes we've ever done. There's one more crucial that people stay for part two because yes, we have the prayer, but there's an answer.
John Bytheway:	00:18:00	And then we have the outcome. Yeah.
Hank Smith:	00:18:02	A beautiful answer to a beautiful prayer.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:18:06	Oh, I agree. They've gotta stick for part two for section 110. 'cause section 110, the events that are in there affect eternity. There's no other way to say it.
Hank Smith:	00:18:19	We often celebrate April 6th, but April 3rd.
John Bytheway:	00:18:23	April 3rd, Steve Harper in his context book first sentence for section 110. April 3rd, 1836 was the second greatest Easter Sunday in history. Yep.

Hank Smith:	00:18:38	I wonder what the first one was.
John Bytheway:	00:18:40	Yeah. I thought, wow. That's a pretty big statement, isn't it?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:18:46	Yeah, it is. But when you understand what happens in section 110, you see that that day affects eternity because it will bring the peace and powers and abilities to gather Israel on both sides of the veil, endow saints with the blessings of Abraham and seal them up and their families into exaltation. I don't know of anything bigger than that other than the very resurrection of our Lord that enables all of this. I can see why Steve calls this the second greatest Easter that's ever happened.
Hank Smith:	00:19:24	Anthony, in your mind, set us up for this. Is this something Joseph is expecting? He and Oliver, they go into the upper pulpit, they close the curtains, kinda like a partition.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:19:35	Yeah. Yep.
Hank Smith:	00:19:36	Creating what you told us earlier would be considered maybe a holy of holies, a celestial room.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:19:42	Yeah. That's the intent of those veils from what I understand it. That morning they met in a general Sunday Easter sacrament meeting service. Then in the afternoon, he is going to meet with church leaders, the presidents of the church. Joseph says quote, he retired to the pulpit, the veils being dropped and bowed himself in solemn silent prayer to the most high. After rising from prayer, the following vision was open to them. I do think there's a reason why Joseph drops the veils. I'm not sure he's anticipating what happens, but he is saying, okay, I met with the saints in the morning. We had our service. We've administered the sacrament, but there are a few hundred people in the audience. They've probably dropped the rest of the veils and sectioned them into their quorums or their groups, and Oliver and Joseph are gonna drop theirs around their pulpits to have their sacred private space in what might be considered the holiest part of the temple.
	00:20:49	And then this vision of four beings bursts upon them. This visitation of four beings, first of our Savior, to fulfill the prayer and accept the house, and then Moses, Elias and Elijah. It really is, this is President Nelson in his 2024 Rejoice in the Gift of Priesthood Keys talk, quote, Jesus Christ declared that he had accepted the temple as his house and made this stunning promise: I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house. This significant promise applies to every dedicated

temple today, and I invite you to ponder what the Lord's promise means to you personally. And another quote to back that of what happens here, why it's so crucial. [Elder Quentin L. Cook](#) of the Quorum of the Twelve said, there are under the direction of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve three executive councils at church headquarters that oversee these divinely appointed responsibilities based on the keys that were restored in the Kirtland temple. They are the Missionary Executive Council, the Priesthood and Family Executive Council and the Temple and Family History Executive Council. So much of the work that the church is doing today is based off what's gonna happen in April of 1836 in section 110.

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| Hank Smith: | 00:22:20 | Anthony, I know I've been in this position before where it's impossible as a teacher to describe what happens. The moment you start to put words to it, you think, I can't do this, but do your best here. |
| Dr. Anthony Sweat: | 00:22:37 | I'll do my best to give a one power punch summary. What happens? Jesus comes and accepts this house as his. Then he gives the power to redeem the dead and gather Israel the covenant family of God on both sides of the veil. That's Moses. He then gives the power through Elias to promise us all the blessings of Abraham, or in other words, what we would call the blessings of exaltation. He then sends Elijah to give the power to bind and seal up these blessings and the human family to God and to one another. That's what happens in section 110 of the Doctrine & Covenants. Just your average day. |
| Hank Smith: | 00:23:28 | Wow. Jesus himself. |
| John Bytheway: | 00:23:33 | Have you guys ever thought of the audacity of what we're saying right here? I've thought about this often trying to share the message of the Restoration. Well, God has appeared again. Jesus has appeared again. Well, and then John the Baptist and then Peter, James and John. Well then Moses and Elias, Elijah, it keeps going and the audacity, but what do you do? If it's true, I guess you'd say it happened and don't sugarcoat it. This actually happened, I think of WW Phelps . The visions and blessings of old are returning and angels are coming to visit the earth. How do you clothe the language for this section? |
| Dr. Anthony Sweat: | 00:24:24 | You can't. |
| Hank Smith: | 00:24:24 | So how do you describe it? |

Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:24:27	Cindy and I were on a cruise and sitting on the boat, we went to go sit in the hot tub at night and we had the hot tub to ourself and we were so excited. You know when you get the cruise hot tub to yourself and then all of a sudden a gaggle of six teenagers came and poured into the hot tub with us. I was so disappointed for a moment until one of these great teenage kids said, where are you guys from? Said to me and Cindy and we said, we were from Utah. And then he goes, I don't mean this offensive at all, but are you guys Mormons? That's how he phrased it. And I said, yeah, actually we are. We're members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and you guys it launched us into for two hours we sat in that hot tub and had one of the best discussions with a half a dozen or so great youth from other faiths who loved the Lord and they loved their faith and I was so impressed with them. But one of the reasons why I'm sharing this with you is because at one point one of them said, I can see as you're talking that your church does believe in Jesus Christ and being saved by him. And then he said, asked this question, he goes, so if you guys are just another Christian Church, what's the value add of your church?
Hank Smith:	00:25:57	Wow.
John Bytheway:	00:25:58	Thank you for that softball.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:25:59	Isn't that a great question? Oh, you just lobbed it up there. What's the value add? I tried as best I could. I'm not sure how successfully I did it, and Cindy probably fixed it, but we tried to testify and teach them about really what went on in the Kirtland temple of being able to receive a blessing of all that God has, but also the blessing of uniting the family of God and our families together for eternity led by living prophets who hold the keys and the powers to do this. It's something that only our church is doing, practicing and preaching. It's rooted right here in section 110 of the Doctrine & Covenants.
Hank Smith:	00:26:50	I like what you said earlier, Anthony, about we sometimes will say the Melchizedek Priesthood was restored by Peter, James and John, and we sometimes like close the door on, okay, priesthood's restored. But would you say Peter, James and John begin to restore Melchizedek Priesthood and yeah, it takes place over these seven years?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:27:15	Well, I would say the restoration of the priesthood is not a singular event. It's an ongoing process. Joseph one time says, all priesthood is Melchizedek. There's just different portions or degrees. It's all the holy order of the Son of God. Anytime God is restoring any aspect of priesthood power and authority and

ordinance and keys, he is restoring priesthood of Melchizedek or the Holy Order of the Son of God. The Melchizedek Priesthood includes Moses, Elias, and Elijah. Frankly, it includes Michael and Gabriel and Raphael, as Joseph mentions in section 128 as well. It's multi angeled. It is not a singular event. And why? Because God is trying to get us to enter into the order of the Son of God or to enter into the same covenants and receive the same promises as all great saints of God in the past have been able to do all of this priesthood and all of these angels are restoring their keys, their ordinances, their powers to help bring that about.

- John Bytheway: 00:28:23 One of my favorite little [graphics](#) in the religion 211 manual is to show this same group on the Mount of Transfiguration. Jesus is there, Peter, James and John are there, Moses is there, Elias is there. It even says according to the JST, John the Baptist was there. You see the elegance and the symmetry in the way that God does things.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:28:50 Yeah.
- Hank Smith: 00:28:52 Anthony, are there any specific verses we wanna look at?
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:28:56 Oh, of course my brother, of course. Should we start reading them?
- Hank Smith: 00:29:00 Let's do.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:29:02 The first thing that I would say is they give the description in verse one to three. It's a poetic, metaphorical, a lot of language from John the Revelator about the greatness and beauty. You can't find words to describe the beauty and the power of this vision of the Savior. I want to pick up with what he says in verse four. I am the first and the last. I am he who liveth. I am he who was slain. I am your advocate with the Father, powerful testament of who our Savior is. And again, they add their testimonies to that as special witness of him over and over. What's the first thing the Lord says? Behold, your sins are forgiven you. You are clean before me. Lift up your heads and rejoice. The Lord. The first message of the first vision was forgiveness. All through the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord forgives, forgives, forgives.
- 00:30:06 He quickly forgives, he freely, he frequently, and he fully forgives those three words freely, frequently, and fully forgives. How many revelations kick off with your sins are forgiven you? Your sins are forgiven you. And it's not because they're excused,

but these people are striving to use that word. They are striving to do their very best and they're repenting when they go astray. And the Lord says, I forgive you. I forgive you. There's no end. One of the blessings of the temple centers in being able to be clean before the Lord. And we're seeing a fulfillment of that right here.

Hank Smith: 00:30:56

Next he says, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice. Three times.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:31:03

Yep. And then in seven, he accepts the house. Remember the plea in verse four and in verse 78 was, will you accept this house? And he says, I have accepted this house. My name will be here. He's directly fulfilling the things they've prayed for. And I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house. Yea I will appear unto my servants and speak unto them with mine own voice if my people will keep my commandments and do not pollute this holy house. Maybe just two thoughts there. Well, the first one is President Nelson just recently promised all of us. Remember when he said, here is my promise, every sincere seeker of the Lord will find him in the temple. It's his house and he manifests himself in his own way and in different ways. But that promise extends to us also.

00:32:04

And sometimes those are literal appearances. Even one time I was in the Salt Lake Temple, I went with some other religious educators and we were talking about where Lorenzo Snow had his vision of the Savior in the Salt Lake temple. And we were standing over where we thought it was based off what we had learned. And as we were talking, getting a little excited almost, this old man, this temple worker shuffled toward us and I thought he was gonna shush us 'cause we were being too loud. And he said, do you know you're standing on the very spot where the Savior appeared to Lorenzo Snow? And we were like, oh, okay, we were wondering, we start talking and as we start talking with him, all of a sudden I see this older woman look at us, the temple worker, and she makes her way over. And I was waiting for her to tell us to keep it down a little bit. And she just goes, do you know you guys are standing right where the Savior appeared to Lorenzo Snow? Well, it's not just in the Kirtland temple. The temple literally is the Lord's house. And he accepts them and he manifests himself to his people and his servants in those houses.

Hank Smith: 00:33:23

Every sincere seeker of Jesus Christ will find him in the temple. One thing that I think fits here is we said earlier, this temple is not perfect. It represents their efforts over many years to give what they can to the Lord. And he accepts it. I've always found comfort in that, that what I'm offering to the Lord, is quite

flawed. The joists don't all line up. Maybe there's too much space between the joists and the floor and it creaks a little bit and the foundation's probably not deep enough, but he accepts it.

- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:34:13 Yep. There's a great metaphor there. Us being the temple of God as well.
- John Bytheway: 00:34:20 Of all the nicknames of the Savior, my favorite is Advocate. I am your Advocate with the Father. He's gonna advocate our cause. First John two, if any man sin, any woman sin, if any teenager sin, if any young adult sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. And that nickname itself is so beautiful to me that he's going to advocate our cause and be an advocate for us.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:34:51 Yes. Look at what we're learning about the Savior in these verses though. Verse four, I live. Verse four, I advocate. Verse five, I forgive. Verse seven, I accept. Verse eight, I manifest verse nine, consequence of the blessings. I bless. Look what we're learning about the Savior's character here. I bless. I forgive, I manifest. I accept. I live. Great, great testimonies of the true nature and character of Jesus Christ in these verses.
- Hank Smith: 00:35:34 I wish I could put words to it. It just seems so full of love and mercy.
- John Bytheway: 00:35:44 Because it's not perfect, but it was built out of their poverty. I think of the sacrifice of these folks. Could we just get the full endowment here? 'cause we don't want to have to build a whole nother place for that out of our poverty and get kicked out of that one, but we know what's coming. They just keep doing it. They just keep striving. Great example of those early Saints.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:36:07 In verse nine. Notice this doctrinally. He says, the hearts of thousands and tens of thousands shall greatly rejoice in consequence of the blessings which shall be poured out and the endowment with which my servants have been endowed in this house. That's why it's important to understand that endowment is a spiritual capacity, not a ceremony or a presentation because they were endowed in the Kirtland temple, meaning they knew God, they learned more of his purposes and plans, their spiritual capacities were increased. They parted the veil. They had angels minister, they had all these Pentecostal experiences and they received great promises, but they didn't participate in the presentation. Yet that will come from the people who they'll start to lay the foundation of who comes next.

Hank Smith:	00:37:05	As a teacher, you wanna come up with the right words to match the importance of what is happening. It's just not there. It's in the section itself. That's the best description.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:37:22	This is why though, again, maybe a plug to everybody who's listening, and of course we're grateful for everybody who's listening. Hopefully this is acting as a catalyst, but ultimately they've gotta get into the word themselves and ourselves and we've gotta get into his house. We have to gaze into heaven. This is why Joseph said, if you could just gaze into heaven for five minutes, you would learn more than by reading everything that's ever been written on the subject. At the end of the day, our words do fail us. We try our best to express, but ultimately the Spirit has to whisper to our spirit and teach us beyond our ability to articulate things that cannot be uttered. That pen cannot record or write.
Hank Smith:	00:38:13	Anthony, this is where it transitions from the Lord to Moses, Elias, and Elijah. Can't the Lord himself give these keys? Why bring these others in on it if he himself can bring these, can do this?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:38:29	I guess. I mean, and that he wouldn't make us have to do anything, would He? He could fly every plane and drive every car and he can minister way better than I can. But ultimately, maybe this is back to a theme too, is the Lord is trying to make something of us.
Hank Smith:	00:38:47	Yeah.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:38:48	That comes through responsibilities. And he is apparently, he's still working with Moses, Elias, and Elijah. They still got work they're doing and growing. Joseph Smith one time said that it'll be a great work to comprehend salvation beyond the veil. We're gonna keep learning and growing and working and grace by grace beyond this life and into the resurrection. And as angels, hopefully until one day we're able to sit on thrones as God does. But so my answer would be, yeah, he could. But this is a gospel of growth and becoming.
Hank Smith:	00:39:21	Yep. He's exemplifying wonderful leadership. I want you to take part in this. I could do it. Come over you.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:39:31	Maybe there's something too, to like what John said too of like, Hey, this is a gathering in of all things from all dispensations and just like Moses and Elias and Elijah were on the Mount of Transfiguration, those same angels, I'm gonna dispatch and

delegate them to come to you too, to gather all this together into one. It's poetic.

Hank Smith: 00:39:52 There's a beautiful touch to it.

John Bytheway: 00:39:54 It's elegant. Hank, I love the question because I love to ask when I'm teaching third Nephi, well, why didn't Jesus just tell him what he told Malachi? But instead he says, I want you to have the words. Or I think he says, the Father wants you to have the words of Malachi. And he honors his prophet that way, I think. Wow. He honors the imperfect people that he has called, but he honors them with their responsibility and he said, let me tell you what Malachi said. And I'm like, wow. He could have just said it, but

Hank Smith: 00:40:28 That speaks to his character, who he is as a person. I could do all this, but come in with me, Moses, Elias, Elijah, come with me. Come with me here. Come meet these guys. You're gonna like 'em.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:40:41 Come meet these guys. You're gonna like Oliver.

John Bytheway: 00:40:46 I've tried to imagine Matthew 17 of Peter who's a fisherman looking and going, that's Moses. I'm just a fisherman. But imagine these guys. That's Moses. That's, oh, just, that's why we can't wrap our heads around. How do you put this into words? How do you, Hey Emma, you'll never guess what happened today. How do you describe?

Hank Smith: 00:41:10 Anthony and John I have to wonder if September 21st is on Joseph's mind when Elijah comes.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:41:16 Well, of course.

John Bytheway: 00:41:17 Because Moroni told him.

Hank Smith: 00:41:19 That was the opener from Moroni.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:41:23 Yeah. He has to. Should we talk about these three angels and what they're given?

Hank Smith: 00:41:28 Please tell us about 'em.

John Bytheway: 00:41:29 Anthony, before you start, I just wanna tell our listeners, make sure to get one of my favorite paintings ever.

Hank Smith: 00:41:36 Right out of the manual. Yep.

John Bytheway:	00:41:38	And the look on Joseph's face there is so awesome. Is it Gary Smith painted this?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:41:43	That's Gary Smith right there. That's a classic. I'm the president of the Gary Smith fan club.
John Bytheway:	00:41:49	I've seen a big one like this in Kirtland. But yeah, take a look at that and think of the awestruck expression that you see there and the way we would feel too going, what is happening?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:42:05	Yeah. It just had to have been incredible for him. How do you even put it in words like you're saying, Hank.
Hank Smith:	00:42:10	Yeah. Now, Anthony, walk us through this. Why are there three?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:42:14	Well, let's start with Moses. After this vision closed, the heavens were again open unto us, and Moses appeared unto us and committed unto us the keys of the gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth and the leading of the 10 tribes from the land of the North. Now, I wanna pause there really quick because to try to understand what these keys are sometimes you talk about the lost 10 tribes getting into your Old Testament stuff. Northern kingdom, southern kingdom, Judah and Benjamin in the southern kingdom, the 10 tribes in the northern, they're scattered by the Assyrians. If you're from the house of Ephraim, congratulations. You're part of the lost 10 tribes. It's not a mystery in the sense of like they're not hidden under some polar ice cap somewhere.
John Bytheway:	00:43:06	I looked, I didn't see 'em anywhere. Yeah, I was there.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:43:09	Yeah, you looked when you were there. The idea that somehow they're gonna come that way, they are lost in terms of their covenant identity. That's how they're lost. They don't know that they are the children of the covenant. The Lord is going to restore them through his servants to the covenant. So this is a gathering of people into the covenant. Let's not get weird when we're talking about the lost 10 tribes as a whole. The other thing I would say is this is not just a missionary work. Sometimes we say, oh, this was the key to do missionary work. The church was doing missionary work since Samuel Smith slapped some copies of the Book of Mormon in his knapsack and went over to Mendon. He didn't need Moses to give him a key to do that. This is a bigger picture of God gathering in the covenant scattered family back into the covenant in the latter days.

	00:44:11	Probably the biggest part of this is Moses's key enables work for the dead. It enables us to do covenants and ordinances on behalf of the dead to bring them into the covenant or back into the covenant to restore them to their covenant identity. This work for the dead in section 128 says it was prepared from the foundation of the world. This was the plan from the beginning was in the latter days we are gonna do work in the temple to gather in Israel through doing vicarious work for the dead. It's not a backup plan. It was the plan from the foundation of the world, this key that Moses is giving when he had Israel gathered at the time, and then they're scattered out for all generations and through all lands. Now today in the Holy temples, we're bringing them back into the covenant family. This key, if I could say it's simple, enables us to do vicarious work for the dead to gather them into the house of Israel.
Hank Smith:	00:45:15	Anthony, let's say I'm teaching seminary or Sunday school and someone asks me, well, what do you mean by keys? These aren't actual keys. Is there a word or a way that I might use that as a teacher? Would I say the Lord is now authorizing me to do this work for him?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:45:35	Yeah. Today we use the term key in terms of the authority to direct a certain work. Joseph doesn't always use the word key that same way as a scholarly note, but it's the way that the church defines it today, the authority to direct a certain portion of the work. So your bishop has a key, your stake president has priesthood keys. Your mission president does, temple presidents do, and of course the prophets and apostles. So when he restores this key to gather Israel, it's almost saying, I am giving you the authority, the direction to govern this work, to gather Israel in from their dispersion on both sides of the veil.
Hank Smith:	00:46:19	I like that it's an authorization, it's an assignment. He, Joseph didn't read the Bible and go, I should do this. The Lord said, I'm giving you the responsibility, the key.
John Bytheway:	00:46:32	I love the orderliness of it. It's the holy priesthood after the order of the Son of God. There's order. It's make a house of order. There's a sequence. I love it.
Hank Smith:	00:46:42	Let's go to Elias Anthony.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:46:46	Elias appears in verse 12 and committed the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham saying that in us and our seed, all generations after us should be blessed. This is the Abrahamic covenant. That's how I would summarize it as well. In other words, this is a promise of the blessings of exaltation. You can

have eternal progression, eternal seed, eternal life. It's a promise of the blessings of Abraham or what we call the Abrahamic covenant as a whole. You can have priesthood that is put upon you. The Lord even says in Abraham chapter two, in thy priesthood, that is thy seed. The blessings of Abraham are the blessings of seed and covenant and family. This is a very family centric, when we say the blessings of exaltation, the blessings of Abraham, this Elias is giving these blessings that you can have eternal family and that you can have eternal progression through the covenants and ordinances of the gospel.

00:47:56 We might even say this is the root of eternal marriage right here with these blessings. Now, this Elias, it's either someone named Elias. The Bible Dictionary says that in the days of Abraham, there was a prophet named Elias, which would make sense if that's the case. We don't know much about this person named Elias, but that somehow he was connected to Abraham or maybe blessed Abraham. We don't know. Elias can also simply just be a title for someone. So it, John the Baptist is called an Elias. John the Revelator is called an Elias. Elias could also be a preparer. If that's the case. It could be somebody like Melchizedek, who according to section 84, gave Abraham his high priestly blessings and priesthood. That Elias could be someone like Melchizedek or people like Bruce R. McConkie and others theorized, this isn't firm doctrine. They're like, if Elias is a title for someone that gave the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham, then this Elias is probably Abraham himself, who better to give the blessings of Abraham than Abraham. But it's either literally someone named Elias who lived in Abraham's time. Somebody like Melchizedek who blessed Abraham or maybe Abraham himself. We don't know. But the key is that he gives the [blessings](#) of Abraham, which are the blessings of exaltation, including eternal progression through family.

Hank Smith: 00:49:38 Anthony, I noticed something, I'm really getting into the language here maybe more than I should, into the specific wording. It says, Moses verse 11 appears and commits the keys of the gathering of Israel. Verse 12, Elias appears and commits the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham. I wanna be careful here and not read so much into the separate words. What do you think?

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:50:03 I'm a little reticent on that. It might just be the language being used because their statements from prophets where they call Elias giving a key, they call 'em the three keys. I think a good cross reference would be section 128, verse 21, where Joseph starts listing all these angels that have ministered to him. He

mentions Moroni and Peter, James and John and John the Baptist, and that's where he mentions Michael and Gabriel and Raphael. If anybody can tell me what key Raphael restored or what power, I would love that. But then listen to this. He says, all declaring their dispensation, their rights, their keys, their honors, their majesty and glory, the power of their priesthood, giving line upon line, precept upon precept. I think the key line is whether you call it a key, a power, a dispensation, an honor, a glory. They're giving a portion of priesthood to bless the children of Heavenly Father to establish the order.

- Hank Smith: 00:51:16 Yeah, you can tell he is excited about it, shall we not go forward in such great cause? So such a great cause.
- John Bytheway: 00:51:24 I love this description from [Joseph Fielding McConkie and Craig Ostler](#). The gospel of Abraham is that power and authority distinctive to Abraham and the covenant that God made with him a dispensation of that gospel is the giving of it anew or its restoration to those willing to enter into a like covenant? Well, it's kind of like, let me give new emphasis to the Abrahamic Covenant or the gospel of Abraham.
- Hank Smith: 00:51:53 Renew it. Re-up it.
- John Bytheway: 00:51:54 Yeah. With this idea of temples, we're gonna bless our seed and all generations after us, the families of the earth can be blessed.
- Hank Smith: 00:52:02 You guys, every time I study this, I am so impressed with the Lord never giving up on this family. By the time you've finished the Old Testament, you think get a new family. This is never going to work. This is the family you've chosen to bless everyone. Someone might ask me, I thought God loved everyone. Why would he have a chosen family? It's because he loves everyone that he has a chosen family. This is the family that's gonna bless all the families of the earth. That's Genesis 12 and he will not give up on them.
- John Bytheway: 00:52:38 Yeah, chosen doesn't mean chosen to sit on a throne and be admired. It's like being chosen to mow the lawn. You've got a job to do. You're gonna bear the ministry, you're gonna bear this gospel. You're gonna take it to the world. It's a job.
- Dr. Anthony Sweat: 00:52:55 This covenant family is to bless the whole world. Hank, like you just said as well, it's because he loves the world that he's called this family and brought people in for these blessings.

Hank Smith:	00:53:09	Anthony, this third visitor, Elijah, how many times has this been referred to in scripture?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:53:16	Well, it's in Malachi, the Old Testament. It's in Joseph Smith History in the Pearl of Great Price. When Moroni speaks to him, it's in the Book of Mormon. It's right here in the Doctrine & Covenants multiple times. So it's in all the standard works. It's one of the most important promises we're getting here. The fulfillment of a 13 year lead up of when Joseph was 17 that he would send Elijah. You can almost picture Joseph going like in verse 13 and after this vision had closed, another great and glorious vision burst upon us for Elijah the prophet, it's like, yes, you came. Like I've been waiting for 13 years for this.
John Bytheway:	00:53:51	Second best Easter ever, right?
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:53:56	That's right. And then he quotes in verse 14,
Hank Smith:	00:54:01	The time has come.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:54:02	The time has fully come, which was spoken by the mouth of Malachi testifying that he, Elijah should be sent before the great and dreadful day of the Lord to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children of the fathers, lest the whole earth be smitten with a curse. Before we read the last verse, obviously Moroni gives a different interpretation or a Moroni translation. It's not that one is right or wrong, he's just translating it. He's, he doesn't say to turn the hearts of the children, he says to plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers. He doesn't say, I'll reveal him to Elijah. He says, I'll reveal him to you. The priesthood by the hand of Elijah. And he doesn't say unless you're smitten with a curse. He says, lest the whole earth be utterly wasted.
	00:54:54	In other words, Malachi, his prophecy and Elijah's priesthood that's gonna be restored is going to be able to secure, Joseph will say at another time, I could translate plant as seal or secure. I'm gonna seal the promises of the patriarchs, the ancient promises of exaltation upon you. And those promises include the blessings of eternal progression and family so that this earth is not wasted in its purpose. The purpose is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. God's life, living like God. And we need to be endowed. We need to gather, well, I should put it in this order. We need to gather Israel into the covenant. We need to be endowed and promised all the blessings of exaltation. And we need to seal that up, those blessings upon people's heads to God and to one another. That's what Elijah's gonna do.

	00:55:58	His power sometimes called the sealing power, but it is sealing all the blessings of exaltation. It's really, Elijah is enabling what Moses and Elias just restored. We cannot gather Israel from all sides of the veil and corners of the earth without sealing keys to seal up those blessings in heaven. We cannot secure what Elias restored of the blessings of Abrahamic exaltation without the sealing power of Elijah. So Elijah really is the pinnacle messenger. These are just two quotes that I grabbed from what Joseph said about Elijah. How shall God come to the rescue of this generation? He shall send Elijah and he shall reveal the covenants to seal the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children of the fathers. And another time Joseph said this, why send Elijah? Because he holds the keys of the authority to administer in all the ordinances of the priesthood.
	00:57:07	Let me give you one last one right before he died. This is March of '44. The spirit and power and calling of Elijah is that ye have power to hold the keys of the revelations, ordinances, oracles, powers and endowments of the fullness of the Melchizedek Priesthood and the kingdom of God on the earth and to perform all the ordinances belonging to the kingdom of God. In other words, Elijah's priesthood enables the fullness of the Melchizedek Priesthood or the Order of the Son of God. It really is the priesthood because it's the priesthood that makes it so we can become like God to seal those blessings upon our head.
Hank Smith:	00:57:56	It's so beautiful. John used the word elegant. I love the 16. Therefore, almost like you have all you need now.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:58:10	Yes, we should read that verse. Therefore, the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands. By this you may know the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near even at the doors. I see that as rejoicing like you guys when in the history of the world have we had the knowledge, the keys, the ability, the temples, the communication, the ability, the freedom to build temples all over the whole earth, to gather Israel from the four quarters of the earth and on both sides of the veil, to bring them into the covenant, to endow and unite families and seal the blessings of exaltation upon all the children of our heavenly Father. Meaning this is the culmination, these are the days prophets have looked forward to from the beginning of time. We are living in this fullness of it. If we can't read section 110 and rejoice, then I can't help you.
John Bytheway:	00:59:19	Then read it again.
Hank Smith:	00:59:23	Elder Holland would say, if you can't get excited about that, you can't get excited.

Dr. Anthony Sweat:	00:59:29	Yeah. What's more exciting than I wanna gather all my family so that none are lost. Promise them a fullness of blessings and seal them up to God and to one another so that they can have eternal progress. That's the greatest message on this earth.
John Bytheway:	00:59:47	This whole discussion has helped me understand why the Lord was so anxious. Will you build the temple? 'cause this is what I want to give you. Makes me think were Elias and Elijah and Moses going, are those guys done yet? Could you hurry? We wanna come, we wanna bless you with all of this. I can see the urgency to build the temple so that all of this can be restored.
Hank Smith:	01:00:13	Anthony, in your work at BYU, Church history, in writing these books on the temple, how important is this to you? March of 36 and April of 36.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:00:27	It's everything. I find such power and purpose and fulfillment in the blessings of the temple. It's everything to me as a educator, but most importantly as a husband and as a father and as a servant in the kingdom. April of 1836 is what facilitates it all. It is the catalyst. It is the pivot point for these blessings of exaltation. And of course they'll be built upon in Nauvoo. Joseph will expand and put these keys to work, to redeem the dead to endow and seal saints together. 'cause they're not sealing them in Kirtland yet and to bind up families. So there was more to come, but this is the catalyst moment in the blessings of the temple in the latter days.
Hank Smith:	01:01:24	I'm grateful that Joseph Smith has good days. We know he had a lot of hard days.
John Bytheway:	01:01:30	Really hard days. So powerful. This statement in verse nine. The hearts of thousands and tens of thousands shall greatly rejoice in consequence of the blessings which shall be poured out. I mean, how often do you read that? Because of this, the hearts of thousands, tens of thousands. It's still happening.
Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:01:53	How many people literally. That's not just a metaphorical. Think of the hundreds of temples and the millions of Latter-day Saints who are endowed, sealed to their loved ones and that are promised great blessings. The joy and rejoicing they get in worshiping in the house of the Lord, and then expand that to the other side of the veil of all of those who are receiving these ordinances vicariously. I mean, there's literal fulfillment of seeing this in our days of temples dotting the land and this great work rolling forward. It's the greatest work that's happening on earth. There's lots of important work, but this is the work. This is the great thing. It's gonna surprise the whole world when

Jesus returns. Jesus in essence says, we've gotta gather everyone into the covenant people of good faith all over the whole world. Go, how do we do that? And he says, we've been working on it and I've had my people start this work and we've been binding and sealing up the whole human family and endowing and blessing them to secure these blessings. It's greater than any other work that's happening as our prophets have testified.

Hank Smith: 01:03:11 Anthony, if it's okay, I wanna ask you a last question, John, feel free to jump in here. End of your speech at BYU. You said this, when you leave the temple, be a diligent student and consciously strive to practice those covenants and concepts in everyday life. Put in the work. Practice. Start again. Realign, increase in your precision and don't you ever give up. God does not give up on you. Don't you give up on him. You go on and you finish talking about the power that God wants to give, that we can truly receive our endowment. We've got people all over the world listening, some who are completely converted to the temple and the power that's there. And then we may have others who are holding back a little bit who don't know if the temple is for them or if they belong or if they can understand. After studying these sections and the temple, let's speak to them. Let's close out our time together speaking to them. Tell us how you feel about the Holy Temple.

Dr. Anthony Sweat: 01:04:25 The first thing that I'd say is remember the temple. It's a house of learning he calls it in Section 88. The way the Lord teaches is in parable. The temple is a great parable, meaning the Temple endowment in particular, the presentation of it, it is meant to be mysterious and it's meant to communicate across all cultures and time. It's not meant to be figured out on first blush. I don't pretend that I have figured it out. I continue to learn in the house of learning. If anybody right now out there is saying I don't quite get it, first thing I'd say is that's because most of the Savior's disciples didn't quite get most of his parables at first, but thousands of years later, we get it. We get some of it anyway, key parts of it and the temple will continue to unfold unto you and I, as we diligently ask, seek and knock.

01:05:38 But we can't expect. The Lord wants there to be layers of depth for a lifetime of learning and we can't expect it all to unfold on first visit or even the 10th visit. Give yourself time. The second thing I'd say too in particular is the Lord's house, is he teaches us through symbol and ritual. We like to say that we're a symbolic people, but we're really not. If I could speak to modern American saints anyway, of which I'm most familiar with, we're a very literal people. We're not deeply rooted in symbol and

ritual. For the most part, our church is pretty pedestrian in the sense that it's practical. I don't mean that negative. We have a very practical faith. We have a very utilitarian faith. Our church is pretty straightforward. In our Sunday worship, we have Sunday classes, about the only rituals is the sacrament and maybe a blessing.

01:06:41 But then we step into the Lord's house and the whole thing is very symbol and ritual, and we're not accustomed to it. Instead of being critical of it, maybe we should ask ourselves how we can be better at interpreting symbol and ritual. And that takes a lifetime of learning. But the last thing I'd say is, I have to say this, the Lord said it's his house and his name will be upon it. It is the house of the Lord. Every time we go to the temple, let's look for the Lord in every aspect of it. From the clothing, to the lighting, to the doorways, to when you go into a sealing room, for example, why are a bride and a groom, why are they dressed in that high priestly clothing? Because Jesus is our high priest. We are following in His order. We are saying that I am going to live a life based on covenant and I'm gonna kneel at an altar that represents an altar of sacrifice like Jesus sacrificed his life and I'm gonna make a covenant over that altar, that I am gonna base my life on Jesus Christ and his teachings.

01:08:01 And I'm gonna be promised blessings through the grace of Jesus Christ. I'm gonna have a chandelier that symbolizes the light of the world sitting above me and windows and it's all the Savior. Maybe that's my last thing I'd say is look for the Savior in every aspect of the temple. And the more you look for him, the more you'll find him. And the more you'll see that this truly is his house and that his name is there and that his power is there. I hope some of that might help give people some things to look for as they continue to learn to love the house of the Lord.

John Bytheway: 01:08:39 I love it. Anthony, when I was a bishop in one of my years, we had a theme of what is your next step. For some, their next step was to say their personal prayers. For some, their next step was to come and take the sacrament with us. For some, it was to get a recommend. For some, it was to go use it. I have a personal testimony that the Lord wants people in the temple. I felt that so many times as a bishop, preparing those to receive a recommend. He wants you there. He forgives sins. Boy, if that's your next step, go there. 'cause you'll find him there like you just promised.

Hank Smith: 01:09:27 Anthony, thank you for spending your time with us today. You have such an expertise and you freely give it. It's a beautiful thing. Thank you.

Dr. Anthony Sweat:	01:09:37	Thank you. Thank you for the great work that you guys are doing and the Sorensen family and this whole podcast. It's really incredible and you guys are blessing countless lives. Thank you guys. And I'm just talking with friends here. What a blessing to be with you two. Great teachers and friends, and I love you both so much.
Hank Smith:	01:09:56	We love you. When we finish a recording like this, I am overwhelmed with the Lord's goodness that I get to be part of something like this.
John Bytheway:	01:10:05	Me too.
Hank Smith:	01:10:06	Yeah. Frequently John people will say, thank you for what you do. And I say, no, thank you for listening. 'cause if you didn't listen, we couldn't do this.
John Bytheway:	01:10:14	I can't believe it sometimes.
Hank Smith:	01:10:16	And thank Cindy for us, for letting us borrow you for a few hours. We want to thank Dr. Anthony Sweat for being with us today and taking his time. We're thankful for Shannon Sorensen, our executive producer, our sponsors, David and Verla Sorensen. And every episode we remember our founder. He would've loved this. I'm sure he does. Steve Sorensen. We hope you'll join us next week. The restoration continues, on followHIM.

followHIM Favorites



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| Hank Smith: | 00:03 | Hey welcome to followHIM Favorites, this is where John and I share a single story to go with each week's lesson. John, Doctrine & Covenants 109 and 110, the Kirtland Temple. You've told me you have a story for these two sections. |
| John Bytheway: | 00:15 | Yeah, and it's more of a way to think about how the temple can bless us. 109 was the Dedicatory prayer. 110 was the appearance of the Savior afterwards. Do you remember Hank, Sister Ardeth Kapp. |
| Hank Smith: | 00:29 | I'm gonna guess General Young Women's President. |
| John Bytheway: | 00:32 | General Young Women's President. She came up with the Young Women theme, the values that have been, through inspiration, updated and modified a little bit for a worldwide church. Her sister, Sharon Green Larson, was in the young women general presidency, and she told the best story about this young woman. She said, her name's not Heather, but I'm gonna call her Heather. Heather goes to this party. She said she gets there, she walks in, everything's fine for a while, then the music gets worse. The exact word Sister Larson shared was friends started disappearing into darkened rooms. Suddenly Heather gets that feeling, Hank, that we've all talked about. I shouldn't be here. Okay, this isn't a holy place. What do I do? And she said, I had to make a choice, either these people or my standards. I couldn't have both. I knew I didn't want what I was hearing and the movies that were playing to get in my thoughts. |
| | 01:32 | No matter how much I wanted to be with these popular people, I knew I didn't belong there. She said, I called my mom. That's an embarrassing call. What's mom gonna say? Or Dad? Oh, honey, just watch all the evil, but don't participate. No, probably not. Right? So she says, mom's on her way. I go to the front door. She's probably going, oh, am I wrong? Should I just stay? What should I do? I don't know where this took place, Hank, but you can probably think of a few places where it could have been. She looks out the window and there is the temple |

gleaming on the hillside. She said, this was the Lord saying to Heather, you're making the right decision. Hank she looks out the window and sees America First Credit Union. I don't think the same story happens.

Hank Smith: 02:16 Yeah.

John Bytheway: 02:16 I don't think she's going, you know, she's like, I should. Yeah. I should get a home equity loan. Only 8.9% APR on approved credit, but she saw the temple. She had that feeling. That's my destination. That's where I want to end up. That's what I want life to mean. She said, that's the way the Lord was saying, Yep. You're doing the right thing. It just reminded me, Hank of Elder Ballard saying, if you can't go to the temple, just go to the grounds. If you can't go in one day, just go to the grounds and walk around and feel the spirit of that place. That story just reminded me of those sections.

Hank Smith: 02:51 Yeah. That's fantastic. Sometimes you have to go home without friends, but with the Holy Ghost.

John Bytheway: 02:58 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 02:59 Right. You don't want to go home with friends without the Holy Ghost.

John Bytheway: 03:03 Thanks for saying it that way. Hank the Holy Ghost is the best friend in the world, and if your best friend leaves the party, go with him.

Hank Smith: 03:09 Go with him. That moment, she's probably thinking, maybe I'm overdoing this, and then to see the temple. No, I'm good.

John Bytheway: 03:16 Nope. Nope. I'm good. Mom, come and get me. Awesome.

Hank Smith: 03:20 Yeah. Come get me and take me out for ice cream.

John Bytheway: 03:23 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 03:23 Hey, we hope you'll join us on our full podcast. It's called followHIM. You can get it wherever you get your podcast. We're with Dr. Anthony Sweat this week on sections 109 and 110 like we said there. He's incredible.

John Bytheway: 03:35 Unbelievable.

Hank Smith: 03:36 He walks us through these sections,

John Bytheway:	03:38	So good.
Hank Smith:	03:38	And points out beautiful, beautiful doctrines along the way. Then come back here next week. We'll do another followHIM Favorites.